

# THE ATHENÆUM

Journal of English and Foreign Literature, Science, and the Fine Arts.

No. 1544.

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1857.

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FOURPENCE  
Stamped Edition, 5d.

**UNIVERSITY OF LONDON.**—NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the ANNUAL EXAMINATION for MATRICULATION in this University will commence on MONDAY, the 6th of July.  
The Certificate of age must be transmitted to the Registrar fourteen days before the Examination begins.  
By order of the Senate,  
W. M. B. CARPENTER, M.D., Registrar.  
Burlington House, May 29, 1857.

**THE QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY, IRELAND.**  
—The Professorship of MATERIA MEDICA in the Queen's College of Belfast and Cork, and the Professorship of NATURAL PHILOSOPHY in the Queen's College, Galway, being VACANT, Candidates for these Offices are requested to forward their Testimonials to the Under Secretary, Dublin Castle, on or before the 30th day of JUNE next, in order that the same may be submitted to his Excellency the Lord Lieutenant.  
Dublin Castle, 25th May, 1857.

**ROYAL BOTANIC SOCIETY,**  
REGENT'S PARK.  
The EXHIBITION of AMERICAN PLANTS will take place on SATURDAY NEXT, June 6th.  
Tickets to be obtained at the Gardens only by orders from Fellows or Members of the Society, price 2s. each, or on the day of Exhibition, 7s. 6d. each.

**HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.**  
—All Persons, whether Fellows of the Society or not, can exhibit at the approaching PETES at Chiswick, WEDNESDAY NEXT, June 3, and THURSDAY NEXT, June 4; and also at the FRUIT SHOW, October 21.

**CHISWICK FETE.**—June 3 and 4.—HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.—Tickets at 2s. 6d. can be had on production of Fellow's Orders or Ivory Tickets, at 21, Regent-street, S.W.—Tickets on the days of Exhibition will be charged 7s. 6d. and 5s. 6d.

**CHISWICK PETES.**—GREAT HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION on WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY NEXT, June 3 and 4. Free to Fellows or holders of their Ivory Tickets, on June 3, at 10 o'clock, or June 4, at 10 a.m. Fellows and the holders of their Ivory Tickets may at the same hours be accompanied by any visitors producing 5s. Admission Tickets. Open to the public, with 5s. Tickets, at 2 p.m., June 3, or with 5s. 6d. Tickets, 2 p.m., June 4.  
Tickets can be procured at 21, Regent-street, till the days of Exhibition, when 5s. Tickets will be charged 7s. 6d. and Half-Crown Tickets, 5s. 6d. each.  
On both days His Grace the Duke of Devonshire, President of the Society, has kindly intimated his intention of throwing open the Grounds or Chiswick House to the Fellows of the Society and their friends.  
Special Trains to Chiswick by the South-Western Railway, and to Farnham Green by the North London Railway.

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21, Old Bond-street, JOHN NORTON, Secretary.  
May, 1857.

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from whom a printed List of Terms can be obtained on application by letter.

**CRYSTAL PALACE.**—COLOGNE CHORAL UNION.—The Directors beg to announce that they have made arrangements with Mr. Mitchell for the services of the Cologne Choral Union at a CONCERT in the Centre Transept of the Palace on SATURDAY, the 6th of June. The Programme will be duly announced. The price of admission to persons not holders of Season Tickets will be Five Shillings; Reserved Stalls, 2s. at the Opera House, Half-a-Crown each.  
May 29, 1857. GEO. GROVE, Secretary.

**SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.**—The EXHIBITION of WORKS of ART at their gallery, 31st, Oxford-street, will OPE on MONDAY, June 7.—Admission, One Shilling; Catalogue, Sixpence.  
L. CARON, Honorary Secretary.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY, 21, Regent-street.**—The NEXT MEETING of this Society will be held on THURSDAY NEXT, June 4, when there will be a paper read by Mr. Hainford on the Use of Glass in Photography, and on the part by the Secretary "On the Albumen Process on Collodion," and its employment in printing transparent Glass Stereoscopic Slides.  
WILLIAM CROOKES, Secretary.

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**N.B.**—During the ensuing Midsummer holidays, a few of the Pupils are going into Switzerland with the Principal, who resided at Hofwil, near Bern, 1844-7. One or two more youths might join the party.

**INDIAN DIRECT INFANTRY** and CAVALRY APPOINTMENTS.—With the sanction of the Hon. COURT OF DIRECTORS, a CLASS or Classes will be formed by Addiscombe Professors, during the next Midsummer Vacation (from 15th June till 31st July), to prepare for Examination Gentlemen who have received Nominations to these Appointments. An opportunity will at the same time be afforded for instruction in Drill and Sword Exercise.—For further information apply to J. T. HYDE, M.A., Addiscombe.

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**SOCIETY OF FEMALE ARTISTS.**—The FIRST EXHIBITION will take place on MONDAY, June 1, at No. 315, Oxford-street. Regent-circus. Works of Art (Photography excepted) will be received at the above Gallery on Friday, the 15th, and Saturday the 16th of May; and on account of the brief notice, Works previously exhibited will be received. All Works of Art will be subjected to the approval of the Committee. Communications to be addressed to Miss CARON, Honorary Secretary, 17, Bartholomew-place, Kentish-town, N.W. Bankers—Messrs. Coutts & Co. Strand.

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The Exhibition is intended to include almost every variety of objects adapted to interest and instruct the public, but the Secretaries beg respectfully to intimate that Paintings, Sculpture, Antique Furniture, Models, Inventions, Armour, Antiquities, Curiosities, &c., will be specially acceptable, and duly appreciated. The important manufacturing Borough of Oldham contains a population of nearly 50,000 inhabitants, and is also within one hour's journey, by private or public conveyance, of the populous towns of Rochdale, Ashton-under-Lyne, and Manchester. The Exhibition is intended to afford a desirable opportunity for Artists, &c., to exhibit their works, and to dispose of the proceeds of the Exhibition, and to render every assistance in its advancement. Artists and others sending their works for exhibition, will be enabled to see the results of the Exhibition, and to be devoted to the benefit of the Greenacres Grammar School.

**Secretaries.**  
Mr. John B. Warring, Warrington, near Manchester.  
Mr. G. B. Taylor, Greenacres Moor, Oldham.  
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Edited by W. HAMMOND AINSWORTH, Esq.

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LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 30, 1857.

## REVIEWS

*Mémoires complets et authentiques du Duc de Saint-Simon sur le Règne de Louis XIV. et la Régence.* Collationnés sur le Manuscrit Original par M. Cheruel, et précédés d'une Notice par M. Sainte-Beuve. 20 vols. Vols. I.—XI. (Paris, Hachette & Co.)

*The Memoirs of the Duke of Saint Simon on the Reign of Louis XIV. and the Regency.* Abridged from the French. By Bayle St. John. (First Series, 2 vols.) (Chapman & Hall.)

It was the most unlucky of days for Louis the Fourteenth, when, in 1691, the old Duke of St. Simon, then not far from sixty, led into the royal presence his son of sixteen and asked a place in one of the two regiments of musketeers. No noble could attain the employment of an officer who had not previously served, at least a year, as a private in one of the regiments above named,—hence the request. It was graciously granted. The King remarked that the boy was little, and looked very young. "He will serve you the longer, sire," was the paternal answer; and therewith all difficulties ended.

The boy did credit to the paternal recommendation, and by the time he had accomplished his nineteenth year he had fought and worked his way to distinction, and had become colonel of a regiment. Previously to joining the army, he had studied philosophy, and gone through a dry course of education little suited to the turn of his mind. If he had been permitted, he says, to diligently study the great historians, he should have, perhaps, been an historian himself. He probably, in such case, would have been a little more perfect, and infinitely less original. As it was, he listened to his old father's older stories with eager delight, and this was a preparatory course of no small profit to him. He took no vices with him to camp or court, and does not appear to have contracted any. He was a good, pious, moral lad, not unambitious and not without a very respectable share of human failings. He was gifted, too, with acute power of observation and a contempt for idle fellows. This boy of nineteen might have lived the life of a Sybarite at court. He did better; at that age he commenced writing the history of his times: that is to say, the history of the Court and all connected with it. For St. Simon was very much of the opinion of those red-heeled courtiers who supposed that the world extended only from Paris to Versailles, and that the sun rose in one locality and set in the other.

To commence such a work was not much:—"Qu'il commençât bien, ne fût rien s'il n'achevait." But St. Simon never looked back from his work. Soldier and courtier, he was ever at the necessary post and fulfilled the required duty. In battle and at banquet, plunging through the frivolities and performing the serious offices expected from him, he was for ever before the public. But in whatever task engaged, his eyes, ears and mind were on the alert,—he was examining people, probing them, trying them, judging them,—and at night he set down the experiences of the day, the anecdotes he had heard, the gay or terrible sights he had seen; and for three score years he never paused in his task. During the whole period of his career at court, from the time he entered the musketeers until the days of his mature manhood and the Orleans regency, he was engaged in sketching to the life the features of all and everything around him. When the hour sounded for his

retreat, he devoted his season of leisure to making of his sketches one grand panorama. When he died, his papers were, so to speak, sequestered. The public has from time to time been permitted to see portions of his work, but there has never been a complete edition of it announced or sanctioned till that now in progress under the responsibility of M. Cheruel. Even when that of 1829 appeared,—"la sensation produite par les premiers volumes," says M. Ste-Beuve, "fut très vive; ce fut le plus grand succès depuis les romans de Walter Scott." The success of the present edition, in every respect improved, as far as we are enabled to judge by the volumes before us, will assuredly not be less than that of eight-and-twenty years ago.

We have said that it was an unlucky day for Louis the Fourteenth when he took the young St. Simon by the hand. We may go further, and say that it was an unlucky day for the whole Bourbon family, then living and thereafter to come. The King little thought that in the diminutive boy he saw the expert official who was to strip him naked, tear him open to the heart, and exhibit to mankind his rottenness and hideousness. He little suspected when, in the days of St. Simon's temporary fall from favour, he, as a mark of returning esteem, gave him the candlestick to hold while Majesty put on its night-shirt, that the courtier looked over it all the closer to mark the spots on the royal leper who thus condescended to honour him. As little was the King aware that St. Simon prolonged the private audiences granted him by Louis, in order, not to further the ostensible end for which they were accorded, but that he might make a study of the monarch and limn the god of his contemporaries for the benefit of his own generation. For Louis was still a god to his court and people,—that is, the courtiers. His godship, it is true, was a little in the decayed condition of that of Alexander when his favourite general caught him taking physic, and laughingly asked if the bowels of a god needed setting right by medicine. Still, there were men who believed in him more than they did in any other deity, and who offered him more profound worship than they thought it worth their while to present at any other shrine. But what a king of shreds and patches he was, after all! Even they who had faith in him, nudged one another in derision as they knelt before their idol, and they put their tongues in their cheeks when the back of their divinity was turned towards them. But at a turn of the head of the unclean idol, they were all again prostrate in the dust,—half mocking, half believing, thoroughly servile, as before.

There is something terrible in the repetitions of the sketches of Louis. He seems to be not only the largest figure amid thousands of figures, but he stands in every group. Very rarely, indeed, does he look either great or noble. Kind he is occasionally, by impulse, and grave amid a world of grinning courtiers. But his gravity is that of a baboon among monkeys. He can laugh, however, when he hears or makes an unclean joke. So little heroic is he that he is easily elevated or depressed. For the life of man or the virtue of woman he had no regard whatever; but then, he never missed mass except once in his life; and, if he offended God and man hourly, he kept a confessor and compounded with Heaven. He is for ever, in these Memoirs, mixed up in the squabbles of courtiers and the scandal duels of women. He loved his lawful children much less than his illegitimate sons and daughters,—the latter of whom especially were, for the most part, a disgrace to their sex. St. Simon hated the

royal "bastards," the Duc de Maine especially. He almost hated the king, and might have done so with great justice, for the honours and emoluments showered on them by their great and worthless sire. St. Simon had a profound respect for legitimacy, and bewailed unions with illegitimate children, whether in royal or noble circles. He had himself married at the early age of twenty. We must not omit to say, that he was less particular about the lady than the family to which she belonged. His desire was to marry a family who could uphold him, and he was ready to take any noble daughter of it, in the more particular character of wife, before seeing her. He fell in love with families, not with young maidens, and he sighed like furnace for noble houses, not for their daughters. Happy for him, he found a house and a maiden who equally suited his purpose; and in the admirable daughter of the Maréchal de Lorges he was blessed with a good wife, as she was with a worthy husband, who had been a strange wooer. The residence of the lady at court only increased his means for enriching his portfolio. Of the immense and glittering crowd in which they moved, no person or object escaped his eye or failed to be duly transmitted to the pages of his diary. Their name is Legion. The memory itself reels at the very thought of the vast and shifting splendour. To cite from St. Simon, says M. Ste-Beuve, is like taking up a handful of sea sand, with this difference, as he acutely remarks, that here no two grains are alike. It is this wonderful variety that is so eminently striking; and every portrait, though a sketch, is life-size. Not only does no personage escape the author, but nothing that they do is left untold by him. It is difficult to say whether he does not pursue them; or it is, rather, impossible to say whether he does sometimes follow to paint them for the amusement or disgust of posterity. And how unlike are his counterfeit presentations to the canvassed effigies of the painter! M. Ste-Beuve sees in him a literary Rubens. He seems to us to be half a dozen Flemish and French painters in one. He can paint gracefully as well as broadly and strongly; and, if he be as brilliant in colour as Rubens, he is now and then as nasty as any six Flemish artists of low-life together; and upon these very details he spends as much colour and pours as much light as he does upon Fynelon at Combray, or the King at the sacrament. We might cite, as an instance, Vendôme at breakfast. Into what a beast, we speak with warrant, is that noseless and filthy hero converted in that picture! Indeed, we dishonour the lowest of beasts by comparing Vendôme with them. Morally and personally, he was hideously unclean. The very pages seem infected where his name is printed and his habits are described. Men kissed one another in those days, but no man kissed Vendôme without danger of being poisoned, and no woman would kiss him at all, even if Vendôme had cared for her doing so. There are some ladies whose portraits, with very disagreeable accessories, correspond with those of Vendôme, and the labour expended on which sustains the assertion of M. Ste-Beuve, that "En tout St. Simon est plutôt supérieur comme artiste que comme homme; c'est un immense et prodigieux talent, plus qu'une haute et complète intelligence." St. Simon, however, manifests both understanding and ability on very many occasions, and especially in the touches which he gives to his portraits. The "majesté effrayante," applied to the King's way of speaking, excellently depicts the way in which the royal speaking-trumpet occasionally sounded. What an incident is that where Luxembourg falls on his

knees to implore Louis not to desert the battlefield for the sake of getting to Versailles "avec les dames"! How exquisite the touch of La Feuilleade, who, on succeeding to the command in the middle of the battle of Neerwinden, withdrew for a full half-hour, to put on fresh hair-powder and a handsome coat! And again in that full-length of Harlay, the first President, who piqued himself on his probity and justice, what deep shadow to the lustrous colouring, in the assertion, that "between Pierre and Jacques he preserved the strictest uprightness, but wherever he perceived that there was some interest or favour to be looked to, he was straightway sold." The touch which especially heightens the effect of the brief sketch of the Duchess of Montfort, the only daughter of Dangeau, must be looked for in the Memoirs themselves. One more agreeable we find in the portrait of the old Duchess de Noailles, who was "tousjours vertueuse à la cour,"—an exception worth noting, like the chastity of Lucretia. What a pleasant group, too, in a large picture is that of Bossuet, Fénelon, and Caffaro, at the bed-side of the dying Maréchal d'Humières, who "was assisted at his death by the three great adversaries." Bossuet and Fénelon very soon after wrote against one another, and Father Caffaro, the Maréchal's confessor, having ventured to write a book to prove the innocence of theatrical representations, was powerfully refuted by Bossuet. The Eagle of Meaux, however, did not himself cease from going to the theatre till he had perfected himself in declamation by diligent study of the elocution of the stage:—a way of making Satan useful, such as Rowland Hill's appropriation of a popular melody to a psalm measure, with the remark that he did not know why the Devil should have all the best tunes to himself. All the works employed to paint the humpbacked dual buffoon, Roquelure, hardly represent him more truly than the single line "l'ami de tous et le confident de personne."

In some of these sketches there are grave faults. In one (Vol. I., 242), St-Simon says that James the First was son of Mary Stuart and father of Charles the First (which last two had their heads cut off) and of James the Second, who was dethroned by the Prince of Orange. And, as this may not be sufficiently clear, the editor adds, "This phrase requires to be elucidated by a genealogical table," which is accordingly given, and in it Charles the First, James the Second, and the Princess Elizabeth are placed together in one line, as the children of our Brummagem Solomon! Mr. Bayle St. John remarks, in the Preface to his translation of portions of these 'Memoirs,' that he "does not undertake to discuss historical points with him"—the author. This might, however, occasionally have been done with much profit to the modern reader, especially where M. Ste-Beuve has corrected the text, as, for instance, in the case of St-Simon's story of the absence of mind of Racine, who, seated between Louis the Fourteenth and Madame de Maintenon, began to abuse that wretched old fellow, Scaron, the lady's first husband. Ste-Beuve shows that it was Despréaux, and not Racine, who committed this doubly cruel mistake. These corrections are of great value.

The prelates altogether do not shine as prelates in these volumes. As pictures, they are artistically executed, and the touches here, too, are put in by the hand of a master. There is Harlay, Archbishop of Paris, in disgrace and retirement at Conflans. In the delicious garden there St-Simon places two portraits, the Archbishop and his "bonne amie, la Duchesse de Lesdiguières." The prelate, we are told, kept this garden in such order, that as he and

the duchess walked on together, they were followed at a little distance by the gardeners, who effaced the prints of their footsteps with rakes! Fénelon is grandly painted, too, but the gossiping author speaks of Madame Guyon as the "bonne amie" of that celebrated man, who was in all respects superior to the Bishop of Langres, the renowned billiard player, who shut himself up six months in order to practise the game and beat a better player than himself. But the Bishop of Langres was scarcely so celebrated and gallant a personage as the Bishop of Troye, who was a thorough man about town, played high, and was a particular favourite with the ladies. The respect in which he was held is evidenced by the assertion that these ladies called him by the name of Trojan, and when he won their money saluted him with Trojan dog, cur of a bishop, and similar pleasantries. We do not wonder that the author, although some very good men appear in his episcopal groups, puts a last dash to one of these groups with the exclamation, "*Coulons à fond les prélats!*" Let us sink the prelates.

We turn with some regret from the complete French edition to the fragmentary translation of Mr. Bayle St. John. His two slight volumes contain the essence of the first ten published in Paris. He acknowledges to having given the spirit rather than the substance; that his "main object has been to produce an interesting work," and that when he has found expressions difficult of translation, he has "rendered them into the language that seemed best to express his meaning, without being troubled with the desire of elegance." These explanations, which are trustworthy, relieve us from the trouble of further description. The labour of condensing and partly re-arranging such a book cannot have been slight; and though the student of history and manners must go to the original, the general reader, content with partial glimpses of a grand picture, and satisfied with being made familiar with interesting fragments of an important document, will have reason to be grateful to Mr. St. John for the trouble he has taken. *Labor ipse volupatus*, and translator and general readers may thus be equally pleased. From this translation we cite the following, as exemplary of the intrigues of some of the very fine people of this very fine court.—

"Bonneil, introducer of the ambassadors, being dead, Breteuil obtained his post. Breteuil was not without intellect, but aped courtly manners, called himself Baron de Breteuil, and was much tormented and laughed at by his friends. One day, dining at the house of Madame de Pontchartrain, and, speaking very authoritatively, Madame de Pontchartrain disputed with him, and, to test his knowledge, offered to make a bet that he did not know who wrote the Lord's Prayer. He defended himself as well as he was able, and succeeded in leaving the table without being called upon to decide the point. Caumartin, who saw his embarrassment, ran to him, and kindly whispered in his ear that Moses was the author of the Lord's Prayer. Thus strengthened, Breteuil returned to the attack, brought, while taking coffee, the conversation back again to the bet; and, after reproaching Madame de Pontchartrain for supposing him ignorant upon such a point, and declaring he was ashamed of being obliged to say such a trivial thing, pronounced emphatically that it was Moses who had written the Lord's Prayer. The burst of laughter that, of course, followed this, overwhelmed him with confusion. Poor Breteuil was for a long time at loggerheads with his friend, and the Lord's Prayer became a standing reproach to him. He had a friend, the Marquis de Gesvres, who, upon some points, was not much better informed. Talking one day in the cabinet of the King, and admiring in the tone of a connoisseur some fine paintings of the Crucifixion by the first masters, he remarked that they were all by one hand. He was laughed at,

and the different painters were named, as recognized by their style. 'Not at all,' said the Marquis, 'the painter is called *IXET*; do you not see his name upon all the pictures?' What followed after such gross stupidity and ignorance may be imagined."

As space will not permit of our giving separate sketches of the different members, legitimate or illegitimate, of the Royal Family and of those immediately surrounding them, we will at least produce most of the group in one picture. The subject is the effect of the death of "Monseigneur," till then sole surviving legitimate son of Louis the Fourteenth. The passage is pronounced by M. Ste-Beuve to be one of the most graphic in the Memoirs by St-Simon. It is only necessary to premise that Monseigneur had died of the small-pox at Meudon amid much confusion and neglect, and while the King had gone thither Versailles was left more in doubt than despair. St-Simon was there making notes of everything that occurred when the news of the death reached the palace.—

"The spectacle before me attracted all the attention I could bestow. The two Princes and the two Princesses were in the little cabinet behind the bed. The bed-toilette was as usual in the chamber of the Duchesse de Bourgogne, which was filled with all the Court in confusion. She came and went from the cabinet to the chamber, waiting for the moment when she was to meet the King; and her demeanour, always distinguished by the same graces, was one of trouble and compassion, which the trouble and compassion of others induced them to take for grief. Now and then, in passing, she said a few rare words. All present were in truth expressive personages. Whoever had eyes, without any knowledge of the Court, could see the interests of all interested painted on their faces, and the indifference of the indifferent: these tranquil, the former penetrated with grief, or gravely attentive to themselves to hide their emancipation and their joy. \* \* I saw Madame la Duchesse d'Orleans arrive, but her countenance, majestic and constrained, said nothing. She went into the little cabinet, whence she presently issued with the Duc d'Orleans, whose activity and turbulent air marked his emotion at the spectacle more than any other sentiment. \* \* Soon afterwards I caught a distant glimpse of the Duc de Bourgogne, who seemed much moved and troubled; but the glance with which I probed him rapidly, revealed nothing tender, and told merely of a mind profoundly occupied with the bearings of what had taken place. Valets and chamber-women were already indiscreetly crying out; and their grief showed well that they were about to lose something! \* \* Acting upon the advice of M. de Beauvilliers, all the company had gone into the salon. The two Princes, Monseigneur de Bourgogne and M. de Berry, were there, seated on one sofa, their Princesses at their side; all the rest of the company were scattered about in confusion, seated or standing, some of the ladies being on the floor, near the sofa. There could be no doubt of what had happened. It was plainly written on every face in the chamber and throughout the apartment. Monseigneur was no more: it was known: it was spoken of: constraint with respect to him no longer existed. Amidst the surprise, the confusion, and the movements that prevailed, the sentiments of all were painted to the life in looks and gestures. \* \* The two Princes, and the two Princesses who sat by their sides, were more exposed to view than any other. The Duc de Bourgogne wept with tenderness, sincerity, and gentleness, the tears of nature, of religion, and patience. M. le Duc de Berry also sincerely shed abundance of tears, but bloody tears, so to speak, so great appeared their bitterness; and he uttered not only sobs, but cries, nay, even yells. He was silent sometimes, but from suffocation, and then would burst out again with such a noise, such a trumpet sound of despair, that the majority present burst out also at these dolorous repetitions, either impelled by affection or decorum. He became so bad, in fact, that his people were forced to undress him then and there, put him to bed, and call in the doctor.



Madame la Duchesse de Berry was beside herself, and we shall soon see why. The most bitter despair was painted with horror on her face. There was seen written, as it were, a sort of furious grief, based on interest, not affection; now and then came dry huffs deep and sullen, then a torrent of tears and involuntary gestures, yet restrained, which showed extreme bitterness of mind, fruit of the profound meditation that had preceded. Often aroused by the cries of her husband, prompt to assist him, to support him, to embrace him, to give her smelling-bottle, her care for him was evident; but soon came another profound reverie—then a gush of tears assisted to suppress her cries. As for Madame la Duchesse de Bourgogne she consoled her husband with less trouble than she had to appear herself in consolation. Without attempting to play a part, it was evident that she did her best to acquit herself of a pressing duty of decorum. But she found extreme difficulty in keeping up appearances. When the Prince her brother-in-law howled, she blew her nose. She had brought some tears along with her and kept them up with care; and these combined with the art of the handkerchief, enabled her to redder her eyes, and make them swell, and smudge her face; but her glances often wandered on the sly to the countenances of all present. Madame arrived, in full dress she knew not why, and howling she knew not why, inundated everybody with her tears in embracing them, making the chateau echo with renewed cries, and furnished the odd spectacle of a Princess putting on her robes of ceremony in the dead of night to come and cry among a crowd of women with but little on except their night-dresses,—almost as masqueraders. In the gallery several ladies, Madame la Duchesse d'Orléans, Madame de Castries, and Madame de Saint Simon among the rest, finding no one close by, drew near each other by the side of a tent-bedstead, and began to open their hearts to each other, which they did with the more freedom, inasmuch as they had but one sentiment in common upon what had occurred. In this gallery, and in the salon, there were always during the night several beds, in which, for security's sake, certain Swiss guards and servants slept. These beds had been put in their usual place this evening before the bad news came from Meudon. In the midst of the conversation of the ladies, Madame de Castries touched the bed, felt something move, and was much terrified. A moment after they saw a sturdy arm, nearly naked, raise on a sudden the curtains, and thus show them a great brawny Swiss under the sheets, half awake, and wholly amazed. The fellow was a long time in making out his position, fixing his eyes upon every face one after the other; but at last, not judging it advisable to get up in the midst of such a grand company, he reburied himself in his bed, and closed the curtains. Apparently the good man had gone to bed before anything had transpired, and had slept so soundly ever since that he had not been aroused until then. The saddest sights have often the most ridiculous contrasts. This caused some of the ladies to laugh, and made Madame d'Orléans fear lest the conversation should have been overheard. But after reflection, the sleep and the stupidity of the sleeper reassured her.

"The turmoil in this vast apartment lasted about an hour, at the end of which, M. de Beauvilliers thought it was high time to deliver the Princes of their company. The rooms were cleared. M. le Duc de Berry went away to his rooms, partly supported by his wife. All through the night he asked, amid tears and cries, for news from Meudon; he would not understand the cause of the King's departure to Marly. When at length the mournful curtain was drawn from before his eyes, the state he fell into cannot be described. The night of Monseigneur and Madame de Bourgogne was more tranquil. Some one having said to the Princesse, that having no real cause to be affected, it would be terrible to play a part, she replied quite naturally that without feigning, pity touched her and decorum controlled her; and indeed she kept herself within these bounds with truth and decency. Their chamber, in which they invited several ladies to pass the night in arm-chairs, became immediately a palace of Morpheus. All quietly fell asleep.

The curtains were left open, so that the Prince and Princess could be seen sleeping profoundly. They woke up once or twice for a moment. In the morning the Duc and Duchesse rose early, their tears quite dried up. They shed no more for this cause, except on special and rare occasions. The ladies who had watched and slept in their chamber, told their friends how tranquil the night had been. But nobody was surprised, and as there was no longer a Monseigneur, nobody was scandalised. Madame de Saint Simon and I remained up two hours before going to bed, and then went there without feeling any want of rest. In fact, I slept so little that at seven in the morning I was up; but it must be admitted that such restlessness is sweet, and such re-awakenings are savoury."

The death of "Monseigneur" left the Duc de Bourgogne, his son, heir to the throne; but that really amiable prince dying not long after, his young son, the Count of Anjou, ultimately succeeded to the crown, as Louis the Fifteenth. The Duke of Orleans, the friend of St-Simon, became Regent during the minority of his young kinsman. It was a period during which the great Revolution was ripening. St-Simon had good grounds to hope that under the Regency his career of prosperity would be certain and glorious. It happened otherwise. Fleury, Bishop of Fréjus, had worked his way upwards to power, and he found St-Simon in his way. The latter, says M. Ste-Beuve, "pensait trop haut pour ce ministère à voix basse que méditait Fleury," a happy distinction! On a hint from Fleury, the author of these Memoirs withdrew resignedly to his estate, and occupied himself in preparing his great work for the instruction of future ages. "After his withdrawal from court," writes his biographer, "he occasionally came to Paris, and visited the Duchess of La Vallière, or the Duchess of Nemours, both of the house of Noailles: there, it is said, with the liberty conceded to an old man and great lord, he became a country gentleman, and in order to be more at his ease he would place his perwig on an arm-chair, while the vapour escaped from his head." He died in 1755, at the good old age of fourscore. His reputation is only just commencing. His Memoirs, the first half of which is more personal and less political than the latter half, convey an idea of his time and contemporaries such as no other writer has accomplished for the period in which, and the personages with whom, he passed his life. He was not without strong passions when rivals came in his way, or individuals passed before him for whom he felt a dislike. This feeling has affected the truth of some of his portraits, but his champion asserts that they are truthful according to the writer's belief and judgment; and that as for his errors in detailing certain facts, they are easy of correction and throw no discredit on his history generally. We fully subscribe to this. He wrote, too, in secret, often hurriedly,—imprisonment, perhaps death, would have been his doom had his papers been discovered, and it is only wonderful that he has committed so few errors.

No mere description can give an idea of the contents of this vast, wonderful, and useful work,—which embraces personal history from the King to his scullions. Even the abridgment by Mr. St. John can afford only a representation of the mighty whole. It is a book by itself, as the author was a man *sui generis*, "a literary man though a noble," as Mr. St. John remarks, and could he have had more sympathies with the people, we might then add, that he was a patriot also. He saw that a downfall was pending, and that a reform was necessary, but he only thought of the crown and aristocracy, and his advice to the Regent was for their benefit alone. He had no idea of the

people below both, and who, rising from beneath both, were to overthrow the one and the other. His inestimable work, read and studied in its fullness, will be found to be a justification, not for all that has since then been achieved, but for very much that was, at least, attempted.

*Egypt and the Great Suez Canal. A Narrative of Travels.* By J. Barthélemy Saint-Hilaire. (Bentley.)

M. St-Hilaire first published his narrative in the French newspapers. When M. de Lesseps received from the Viceroy of Egypt his commission to form a company for the purpose of constructing the Suez Canal, he invited M. St-Hilaire to co-operate with him, and the result is that to a number of chapters on the manners and arts of Egypt are added one or two on the great project for cutting a channel from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea. The old arguments are repeated; but with reference to the practical and political objections as stated by us, several months ago, M. St-Hilaire, in a paragraph of easy but incorrect generalization, observes, "The English press, with perhaps only one exception, has expressed a favourable opinion on it" (the Suez Canal scheme). We scarcely know how it can be assumed that "England, so far from rejecting the project desires it," when it is known that strong opposition has been offered to M. de Lesseps' endeavours to procure the concurrence of the Ottoman Sultan in the grant of the Egyptian Viceroy. In fact, this difficulty is felt and acknowledged by the French advocates of this new labour of Hercules.—

"Admitting then that England (or some individuals who affect to speak in her name and on her behalf) desires to maintain her present exclusive monopoly in India, without introducing or permitting any change or modification, and, animated by a narrow-minded spirit of egotism, would attempt to exclude for ever all the nations bordering the Mediterranean from the commerce of the East, and to prevent their establishing an easy and lucrative route, by what right, we may ask, could any nation oppose the legitimate desire of all these countries, and bar the passage to them? By what right could the principle of monopoly be re-established, after the most solemn declarations in favour of free-trade? And, moreover, by what right can the British Colonies themselves, which are equally interested in the question, be debarred this new outlet for their commerce? Would any one dare to maintain, openly before the world, or in any European Congress, that England has a right to sacrifice to her own individual interests—even if these were well understood—the interests of the whole human race? Who would encounter the shame and the responsibility of such an avowal?"

We may guess in what spirit M. St-Hilaire views the Suez scheme from the admiration he professes for the Barrage of the Nile, superintended by Mungel Bey. This colossal work, he says, is nearly finished, after years of difficulty and disappointment; but he is careful not to point to the graves of the Fellahs that lie around, or to number the bones of the victims to heat and hunger, who perished while that enormous engineering phantasy was being developed. Mohammed Said, we are told, requested the Suez Commission to ascend the Nile as far as the First Cataract, to indicate the most convenient point for the establishment of a second Barrage; but before the burning dust of the valley consumes the necessary myriads, it would be as well to calculate how many Arabs and their families are to rot on the road to Pelusium. It was said of the Kublai Khan:—

Could you but gather the bones of all,  
The bones of all his armies slew,  
They would vie in height with the China Wall,  
Or fill up the great canal of Ku.

And if the tortured labourers engaged upon the Suez excavations should not supply skeletons enough to choke the canal (if ever the canal be made), they might at least be expected to yield the materials for many a pyramid after the fashion not of Cheops, but of Genghiz Khan. We well know what Egyptian engineering is, with Pashas to promote the works and a French scientific staff to superintend them. No doubt M. St-Hilaire, when he speculates upon the emigration of Arab families to the Isthmus, to be employed on the canal, dreams not of Kublai devastations; but he and M. de Lesseps were so much flattered at Cairo, that they may be excused for writing in a viceregal vein on the subject of Fellah labour.

"Conversing familiarly with his Highness the Viceroy, and his ministers, Edhem Pasha and Zulfikar Pasha, we might have imagined ourselves in a circle of the best society of Paris. The Viceroy has wit, good sense, easy manners, and a frank disposition. Such was the impression I received from our interview, which lasted four hours. You know me too well to suspect me of flattery or fiction, if I remark the tact as well as politeness shown in many felicitous expressions which fell from his Highness: I mention only one. 'On our hesitating to cover our heads, notwithstanding his request that we would do so, M. de Lesseps said, "Your Highness treats these gentlemen like crowned heads." These gentlemen,' replied Said, 'are indeed the crowned heads of science.'

We were afraid that M. St-Hilaire would devote too large a proportion of his octavo volume to the elucidation of a topic respecting which very little remains to be said. The Suez Canal will be constructed when all the Powers are agreed, when the funds are forthcoming, and when the physical obstacles have been conquered. We have no reason to believe that governments or capitalists will be in a hurry to imitate the Arabs and bury treasures in the sand. Meanwhile, M. St-Hilaire discourses learnedly on Mohammedan institutions, on Egyptian architecture, and on the history of the cities and monuments that fringe the blue stream of the Nile. He is a chatty, agreeable tourist when nomading through that very muddy topic, the Suez Canal. His excursions in the Upper Valley were not extensive, but he saw much of Egyptian life.

"During our visit to the ruins of the Ramessides, in the western plains of Thebes, two young children from eight to ten years of age, one of whom was quite naked, came running up to us, and showed us their little right arms, on which a cross was tattooed in blue. They gave us to understand that they were Christians; and, to convince us of this, they made the sign of the Cross, in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Their faces were gentle and intelligent, and their physiognomy more refined than that of their companions. Their eyes beamed with a less wild expression, and showed more traces of humanity. Our conversation with these poor little creatures ended naturally with an alms, a bakshish, which they begged of us, whilst one of their companions, of the same age, stretched out his arm with energy, and exclaimed 'Moslem!' to testify that he was a Mussulman, and as proud of it as the two others were of being Christians."

Accustomed to philosophize, he suggests a defence of the jealous veil: first, on the ground that by partial concealment it piques the beholder's fancy.

"There is another more real utility in the veil concealing the face. With us, a girl who is ugly may remain a long time, nay her whole life, without getting a husband. The veil spares a woman such disappointments, though perhaps it prepares them for the husband. No man here ever sees the figure of the woman he is to marry; and if the surprise of the husband, when after the marriage ceremony he first uncovers his wife's face, is sometimes agreeable, it may often be very distressing. It is true that he can easily find consolation,

by speculating on taking another wife, or getting a speedy divorce. Thanks to the veil, however, the woman has been married, and is at least saved the pain of being forced by her ugliness to remain single all her life."

Further, M. St-Hilaire dilates upon the Pyramids and palaces of Pharaonic antiquity, but not in the spirit of Alciphron. It would be too much to say that his book is more than a tourist's record, with a ballast of pamphlet dissertation; but narratives of Egyptian rambles have become less frequent than formerly, and M. St-Hilaire may meet with welcome as one who has come fresh from the Nile, who saw its valley after the summer of 1855.

*Edinburgh Dissected: including Strictures on its Institutions, Legal, Clerical, Medical, Educational, &c. To which is added, Confessions and Opinions of a Tory Country Gentleman; with a Variety of Anecdotal and other Matter. In a Series of Letters addressed to Roger Cutler, Esquire. By his Nephew. (Edinburgh, Hogg.)*

In this volume a good subject is completely spoiled, a brilliant model wretchedly imitated, and the promise of the title falsified by the performance.

Edinburgh presents a tempting subject to the knife. One by one, its leading men have departed, leaving no successors; year after year its influence as a national centre has declined, till at length only the memory of its ancient glory remains. The decay might, perhaps, have remained unnoticed had not the noisy efforts of friends forced it into prominence. Complaints of non-appreciation, and boasts of youthful vigour, have revealed the truth. A few years ago, the public opinion of Edinburgh had a sensible weight in the national councils, its University possessed an imperial fame, and its literary men were amongst the first in the land. Now, in the place of patriotism, it has a Scottish Rights Association,—instead of Professors, it has a University Extension Association,—for the school of mental science it once possessed, a Philosophical Institution,—while the final decay of literature has recently been celebrated by the establishment of a Literary Institute. The late Mr. Buckingham attempted to get up an Institute of this kind in London, but literature here was strong, and the effort failed. In the days of Scott and Jeffrey, of Wilson and Lockhart, it would have failed in Edinburgh. These Associations and Institutions are, in fact—as our friend Mr. Punch used to say—refuges for the weak and destitute. What strong national feeling ever yet required a wordy National Rights Association for its expression, or could be satisfied with any such verbal utterance? Not only the inherent weakness, however, but the want of humour shown in the formation of such an Association, is a significant mark of degeneracy. The jest of the thing would have been too strong for a genial Scotchman of the old type. A little quiet banter would have quashed at once the long array of imaginary grievances, as Buchanan, in Moore's story of 'Zeluco,' distinguished the original list as detailed by that fiery Highlander Duncan Targe. A fragment of the dialogue is worth extracting as a tribute to the memory of the real though unacknowledged author of the Association.

"What do you think, Mr. Targe," said Buchanan, 'of the increase of trade since the Union, and the riches that have flowed into the Lowlands of Scotland from that quarter?'—"Think," cried Targe; 'why I think they have done a great deal of mischief to the Lowlands of Scotland.'—"How so, my good friend?" said Buchanan.—"By spread-

ing luxury among the inhabitants, the never-failing forerunner of effeminacy of manners."—"Why I am assured," continued Targe, 'by Sergeant Lewis McNeil, a Highland gentleman in the Prussian service, that the Lowlanders in some parts of Scotland are now very little better than so many English.'—"O fie!" cried Buchanan, 'things are not come to that pass as yet, Mr. Targe; your friend, the Sergeant, surely exaggerates.'—"I hope he does," replied Targe; 'but you must acknowledge,' continued he, 'that by the Union Scotland has lost her existence as an independent state; her name is swallowed up in that of England. Only read the English newspapers: they mention England as if it were the name of the whole island; they talk of the English army, the English fleet, the English everything. They never mention Scotland, except when one of our countrymen happens to get an office under Government, we are then told with some stale gibe, that the person is a Scotchman; or, which happens still more rarely, when any of them are condemned to die at Tyburn particular care is taken to inform the public that the criminal is originally from Scotland! But if fifty Englishmen get places, or are hanged in one year, no remarks are made.'—"No," said Buchanan, 'in that case it is passed over as a thing of course.'

We know the Association has no real power, and that it was ridiculed at the outset by some amongst the more sensible of the Edinburgh men; still it was popular, its list of members included a number of the most distinguished men of the city, and it secured the support of every local newspaper, we believe, save one. We are, therefore, justified in regarding it as a movement characteristic of the place. That the spirit in which it originated is still prevalent, was proved, moreover, during the delivery of Mr. Thackeray's Lectures by the conduct of the audience, who were quite disposed to pick a quarrel with the lecturer, as Targe did with Buchanan, for the frank expression of his opinion about Queen Mary. Such weak and morbid sensitiveness to the past shows in any society, the absence of anything like a living vigorous present.

The truth is, Edinburgh has ceased to produce. That instead of distinguished authors or politicians, its present Members should be a publisher and a paper-maker, is not only a fact in representation but a representative fact. The life of the place is stationary. The only writers it possesses are Writers to the Signet, and the only works it produces are Parliament-House Papers. Look at Literature and Politics, the two vital departments of public activity. Edinburgh once had a powerful place in periodical literature. What is the fact now? The title is the only connexion the *Edinburgh Review* has with the place of its birth—publisher, editor, and contributors being alike English; Blackwood's native staff of contributors is reduced to an individual; Chambers has dropped out *Edinburgh* from the title as no longer characteristic of their Journal; while the *North British Review*, the only younger serial that seemed to promise well, yielding to the influence of the place, is at this very moment in a state of suspended animation. Turn to Politics. What appreciable influence has Edinburgh now on public opinion? What public man or powerful writer takes any prominent part in discussing the leading questions of the day? With the exception of an occasional article in *Blackwood*, generally of a gloomy prophetic cast, and said to be of home manufacture, no attempt of the kind has been made of late years. The only really flourishing institution in Edinburgh at present is the Parliament-House. The activity of the law courts is still undiminished; but law is the embodiment of routine. The function of the Parliament House is no longer deliberative or legislative, but simply administrative and judicial. Even here the triumph of machinery is



complete. With, perhaps, a single exception, there are no longer any great lawyers at the Scotch bar. The best lawyers are professional, not as of old, public men. The same is true of other professions. How many men of national reputation are there in the Church or the University?

What a change from the Edinburgh Lockhart describes in 'Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk,' when the University possessed Stewart, Dr. Thomas Brown, Playfair, Leslie, and Jameson; the bar, Jeffrey, Cockburn, Moncrieff, Robertson, Boyle, and Hope; and amongst the city clergy were Erskine, Inglis, Adam Thomson, Sandford, Alison, McCrie, and Jamieson. When at Craighcrook he found Jeffrey in a green jacket with scarcely any skirt, grey worsted pantaloons, Hessian boots, and a black handkerchief, busy at out-door work, and on the arrival of Playfair and Leslie joined them at a leaping match, in which the veteran Playfair, an old man of seventy, proved the greatest *geo-meter* of the four. When at the house of Gillies, the historian, he drank tumblers of champagne with Capt. Hamilton and the Ettrick Shepherd, till the latter, under the influence of the unwonted and ethereal inspiration, insisted on giving the ladies before they left the dining-room a specimen of his skill upon the violin; when he listened with delight to Wilson's after-dinner speeches, and enjoyed the frank and manly hospitality of the great magician, Sir Walter himself; while Mackenzie, author of 'The Man of Feeling,' still survived, in brown wig, snuff-coloured clothes, high-heeled shoes with steel buckles, to connect a generation remarkable for literary and political activity, with a previous one equally renowned for speculative penetration and historical research—the age of Scott and Jeffrey with that of Hume and Robertson, of Kames and Smith. At the time when Lockhart wrote his sketches, the *Edinburgh Review* was a national power,—*Blackwood's Magazine* in the daring vigour of youth, was challenging its supremacy,—and the Waverley Novels were still in course of publication.

Now almost everything is changed, except the city itself, which is still as beautiful as ever—beautiful from every point of view and in every season of the year. Its majesty and loveliness are indeed indestructible, but the beauty is monumental. The city is a place of tombs. The Castle is the monument of national independence, Holyrood Palace of the regal line, St. Giles's Cathedral of the old religion, while wherever you turn your eye, at the corner of every street, and on the slope of every eminence, you see monuments of the mighty dead,—Scott or Burns, Hume or Stewart, Melville or Hopetoun. What Petronius said of ancient Athens in the days of her decline—that so numerous were the statues it was easier to find a god than a man—is almost true of modern Athens also. Her heroes are all in stone; you cannot find them amongst living men, they walk the streets no more. Much of the public activity of the place, too, is strictly monumental. The inhabitants are still employed in building the tombs of the prophets, several new monuments being either planned or in course of execution. The chief literary activity is of the same kind, the issues of the three leading publishers being respectively re-issues of works in literature, philosophy, and science, whose authors are no more. The very Members for the city are monumental—both elected, too, in memory of the same illustrious individual, whose name has become identified with Edinburgh; one returned by his enemies to commemorate his defeat, the other by his friends to perpetuate his subsequent triumph. Neither of them can be said to represent any considerable

existing party in the city. Of late, too, the monumental zeal of the place has become aggressive,—an attempt having been made to rouse the nation on the question, "Shall Wallace have a statue?" For five centuries no statue to Wallace was needed in Scotland. He lived in the hearts of the people, who, in the proud consciousness that they still cherished his spirit, felt that he was a part of themselves. Now he is something separate, the nation feels that he is dead, and begins to talk about a monument. The capital, as we have shown, shares the fate of the national hero, in being no longer a living power; and the spirit having fled, the time, in the course of Nature, has come for dissecting the social frame it once animated.

The author of the present volume has thus chosen his subject well. The task he undertakes is, seasonable, and, if rightly done, might be useful. How does he accomplish it? The reply, as we have already intimated, is more simple than satisfactory—not at all. The title is a complete misnomer. In the first place, he seems to have known little or nothing of the subject, and thus to have lacked the very first pre-requisite for its successful treatment. He should, at least, see what he pretends to oversee,—should, at all events, know what he undertakes to criticize, and have the subject well in hand before he attempts to dissect it. But beyond the most superficial knowledge of externals, such as a druggist's apprentice or lawyer's clerk might acquire in a few days' visit, he really has no acquaintance with the city he intrepidly undertakes to dissect. Of Edinburgh society, as he confesses, and as is evident from the book, he is absolutely ignorant, and of its institutions almost equally so. A visit to one or two of the city churches and a stroll into the law courts were, apparently, the only preparation he thought necessary for his work. The University he does not appear to have visited at all; for at the outset of the letter devoted to the subject he coolly intimates that, knowing nothing of the Professors, this "seems a fit opportunity for saying something about collegiate education in general." This is by no means a solitary instance. In other letters, knowing really nothing of what he undertakes to describe, he reverts to his favourite practice and seizes the opportunity of saying a few words about things in general. As men are said to "confess" their virtues, so he is continually confessing his ignorance as though it were a virtue; and he is really as ignorant as he professes himself to be,—if possible, indeed, more so. This being the case, the publication of the book is simply an impertinence.

But even with the best opportunities, the result could hardly have been different,—for the writer evidently has no faculty of turning them to account. He has no critical power, and is unable to analyze the simplest object. He cannot even describe, much less dissect. His attempts to represent even well-defined objects, with which he is perfectly familiar, are ludicrous, and could convey no idea whatever to an ordinary reader. Not to go beyond the first letter, take his picture of the Scott Monument,—one of the most striking objects to a stranger on entering the New Town of Edinburgh:—

"It was intensely interesting," he writes, "to gaze on a picture of such surpassing beauty and variety. To see before one that noblest memorial that ever was reared to commemorate human genius, overcanopying the sculptured image of Scotland's most illustrious son, as he sits in calm and unpretending repose, with his favourite dog by his side, so unlike the attitudinizing style in which

some living authors chose to exhibit themselves to the public."

Here he tells you nothing about the monument, whether it is Greek or Gothic, a dome or a spire, or anything else, except that it is "the noblest memorial," &c. Evidently the only idea of description he has is the use of big words. Every feeling is "inexpressible," or "inconceivable,"—every object "gorgeous," or "stupendous," or "massive," or "stately." On his arrival he finds the scene at the Railway Station "inexpressibly striking," and "singularly exciting," and again on reaching the front entrance the view is "inexpressibly fascinating." In Princes Street, "on each side the lamps stretch far away in a straight line till they seem to resolve into two interminable belts of gilded stars." How two straight lines could possibly ever "seem to resolve themselves into two interminable belts," or why stars should be "gilded," he does not attempt to inform us. Of the two sentences given in the above extract, the second is not a sentence at all, only a long and confused nominative without a verb; now and then the meaning of the writer is reversed by the incautious use of a double negative; while sentences like the following are common:—

"Thus occupied what *availeth* to many of his hearers the most learned and most eloquent disquisitions on the part of the lecturer?"

"Great institutions, like Colleges, should keep pace with the age; its professors should be prepared to illustrate every useful and important discovery."

"Yet how incomparably inferior is the good enjoyed within the precincts of this hospital to that which its extramural ramifications is destined to diffuse."

"It was one of those dry uninteresting themes which, in an earlier period of the Presbyterian Kirk, was wont to form the staple of Calvinistic preaching."

The only readable parts of the book are the conversations of others which the writer professes to report.

*Barchester Towers*, By Anthony Trollope, 3 vols. (Longman & Co.)

ENTERING the episcopal palace of Barchester we find, at once, that 'The Warden' was an uncompleted story. Mr. Harding is again upon the stage, with Eleanor, Tom Towers, and the *Jupiter*. There is, however, a new bishop of the diocese, Dr. Proudie, successor of Dr. Grantly, with Mrs. Proudie, of evangelical ambition, supplemented by a loose-jointed Low-church chaplain, Obadiah Slope. But we again make acquaintance with the loud, clear-voiced, overbearing Archdeacon, the tyrant of his father and father-in-law, who has a theory about oblong dining-tables, and sets down any obnoxious brother as a "beast." Thus, Mr. Trollope has not to contend against the difficulty of interesting us, at the outset, in his personages or in his narrative; we are by no means strangers in Barchester; but he has, perhaps, to meet a worse difficulty,—that of prolonging successfully the interest of a tale which seemed some time ago to have been brought to a natural conclusion. Yet we doubt whether 'Barchester Towers' is not a more satisfactory book than 'The Warden': it is certainly more dramatic in its construction; the characters are more varied; an infusion of romance gives lightness and brightness to the ecclesiastical picture. It may still be said, indeed, that Mr. Trollope has a happier art of drawing sketches from life, and striking off pungent sayings hot and vivid upon the page, than of elaborating the action of a novel: nevertheless, the incidents that lead up to the marriage of Eleanor, if to some extent conventional, are yet contrived with skill, and will engage the sympathies of other readers than those who appre-

ciate the excitement kindled in a cloistered city whenever a bishopric or deanery is vacant. Parallel with the many wooings and one love of the youthful widow moves the tearful tragedy of Obadiah Slope,—tragic in all but its consummation, for the oily Obadiah—beaten, thwarted, slapped in the face, confuted, confounded, detected in the act of kissing a married lady's white hands, discarded by his querulous patroness, and driven with shame from the Eden of virtual episcopacy—is comforted at last, contracts an offensive and defensive alliance, till death them do part, with the opulent relic of a sugar-refiner, (including a house in Baker Street,) mounts a metropolitan pulpit, and ripens in the golden warmth of patronage until the soul of sweetness, enriched within him, suffuses his plump rotundity, and he ages, and mellow, and excites the envy of the irreligious and the poor. This reverend Slope is the Low Church personified, and it is Mr. Trollope's pleasure to mock his red hair, large hands, weazel eye, and sardonic intonations. Perhaps some of this sarcastic finish is unfairly applied; but we are to take 'Barchester Towers' for what it is—a satire on men and opinions in a certain corner of the *ecclesia*; and if Mr. Trollope makes Low Church ridiculous he does not make High Church sublime. To say the truth, the entire establishment, as here represented, is but a worldly well-spread table, with a hundred covers for baked meats, purple and amber juices glittering in globes of crystal, and all the spiced dainties of Samarcand and Lebanon, to tempt the taste of the shoeless and the scrippless. No suppurated party in England can complain that the novelist insults it by flattery. To go a little further, human nature itself has not much excuse for being aggrieved on that score,—unless it be the unpolluted babe-like nature of the ex-Warden, who is satisfied that he should not hold his wardenship, and that he should not accept a deanery,—or the warm, honest, crystal-transparent nature of Eleanor Bold, who has to rebut the courtesies of Obadiah Slope with a tingling blow from her ivory-wristed hand,—to reject the explanations of Bertie Stanhope with sweet tears from her eyes, and who ultimately takes up a definite position in her mortal state as Mrs. Arabin, wife of a blameless doctor and a dean. Bertie Stanhope is a caricature. The mundane-minded Dr. Stanhope stands dimly in the background; but the Signora herself, with her loveliness and her wiles, her fascinating insolence, and ready points of repartee, is brought out with singular force and fancy. With respect to the other characters, Signora Neroni, last but one of the Neros, (in reality, however, only a Stanhope,) is the most conspicuous siren among the sinful. She has a beautiful face, and a perfect bust, but has been crippled by the violence of an Italian castaway, her husband. Infidel philosophy and sensuous vanity occupy her remaining days; and with almost harrowing humour Mr. Trollope describes the victory of her sensuous charms over the conscience, the worldly scruples, the heart encased in carrot-coloured flesh, of Chaplain Slope. As an example of Mr. Trollope's boldest method of writing, we will connect two passages relating to the passionate interview between Mr. Slope and Signora Neroni:—

"Mr. Slope, as was his custom, asked for Mr. Stanhope, and was told, as was the servant's custom, that the signora was in the drawing-room. Upstairs he accordingly went. He found her, as he always did, lying on her sofa with a French volume before her, and a beautiful inlaid writing case open on her table. At the moment of his entrance she was in the act of writing. 'Ah, my friend,' said she, putting out her left hand to him across her desk, 'I did not expect you to-day, and was this very instant

writing to you.—' Mr. Slope, taking the soft, fair delicate hand in his, and very soft and fair and delicate it was, bowed over it his huge red head and kissed it. It was a sight to see, a deed to record if the author could fitly do it, a picture to put on canvas. Mr. Slope was big, awkward, cumbrous, and having his heart in his pursuit, was ill at ease. The lady was fair, as we have said, and delicate; every thing about her was fine and refined; her hand in his looked like a rose lying among carrots, and when he kissed it he looked as a cow might do on finding such a flower among her food. She was graceful as a couchant goddess, and, moreover, as self-possessed as Venus must have been when courting Adonis. Oh, that such grace and such beauty should have condescended to waste itself on such a pursuit!—'I was in the act of writing to you,' said she, 'but now my scrawl may go into the basket;' and she raised the sheet of gilded note-paper from off her desk as though to tear it.—'Indeed it shall not,' said he, laying the embargo of half a stone weight of human flesh and blood upon the devoted paper. 'Nothing that you write for my eyes, signora, shall be so desecrated,' and he took up the letter, put that also among the carrots and fed on it, and then proceeded to read it.—'Gracious me! Mr. Slope,' said she, 'I hope you don't mean to say you keep all the trash I write to you. Half my time I don't know what I write, and when I do, I know it is only fit for the back of the fire. I hope you have not that ugly trick of keeping letters.'—'At any rate, I don't throw them into a waste-paper basket. If destruction is their doomed lot, they perish worthily, and are burnt on a pyre, as Dido was of old.'—'With a steel pen stuck through them, of course,' said she, 'to make the simile more complete. Of all the ladies of my acquaintance I think Lady Dido was the most absurd. Why did she not do as Cleopatra did? Why did she not take out her ships and insist on going with him? She could not bear to lose the land she had got by a swindle; and then she could not bear the loss of her lover. So she fell between two stools. Mr. Slope, whatever you do, never mingle love and business.'—Mr. Slope blushed up to the eyes, and over his mottled forehead to the very roots of his hair. \* \* And so she continued to insult him, and he continued to bear it.—'Sacrifice the world for love!' said she, in answer to some renewed rapid declaration of his passion, 'how often has the same thing been said, and how invariably with the same falsehood!'—'Falsehood,' said he, 'Do you say that I am false to you? do you say that my love is not real?'—'False! of course it is false, false as the father of falsehood—if indeed falsehoods need a sire and are not self-begotten since the world began. You are ready to sacrifice the world for love? Come, let us see what you will sacrifice. I care nothing for nuptial vows. The wretch, I think you were kind enough to call him so, whom I swore to love and obey, is so base that he can only be thought of with repulsive disgust. In the council chamber of my heart I have divorced him. To me that is as good as though aged lords had gloated for months over the details of his licentious life. I care nothing for what the world can say. Will you be as frank? Will you take me to your home as your wife? Will you call me Mrs. Slope before bishop, dean, and prebendaries? The poor tortured wretch stood silent, not knowing what to say. 'What, you won't do that. Tell me, then, what part of the world is it that you will sacrifice for my charms?'—'Were you free to marry, I would take you to my house to-morrow, and wish no higher privilege.'—'I am free; said she, almost starting up in her energy. For though there was no truth in her pretended regard for her clerical admirer, there was a mixture of real feeling in the scorn and satire with which she spoke of love and marriage generally. 'I am free; free as the winds. Come; will you take me as I am? Have your wish; sacrifice the world, and prove yourself a true man.'—Mr. Slope should have taken her at her word. She would have drawn back, and he would have had the full advantage of the offer. But he did not. Instead of doing so, he stood wrapt in astonishment, passing his fingers through his lank red hair, and thinking as he stared upon her animated countenance that her wondrous

beauty grew more wonderful as he gazed on it.—'Ha! ha! ha!' she laughed out loud. 'Come, Mr. Slope; don't talk of sacrificing the world again. People beyond one-and-twenty should never dream of such a thing. You and I, if we have the dreams of any love left in us, if we have the remnants of a passion remaining in our hearts, should husband our resources better. We are not in our *première jeunesse*. The world is a very nice place. Your world, at any rate, is so. You have all manner of fat retortories to get, and possible bishoprics to enjoy. Come, confess; on second thoughts you would not sacrifice such things for the smiles of a lame lady?'—It was impossible for him to answer this. In order to be in any way dignified, he felt that he must be silent.—'Come,' said she, 'don't booby with me; don't be angry because I speak out some home truths. Alas, the world, as I have found it, has taught me bitter truths. Come, tell me that I am forgiven. Are we not to be friends?' and she again put out her hand to him.—He sat himself down in the chair beside her, and took her proffered hand and leant over her.—'There,' said she, with her sweetest softest smile—a smile to withstand which a man should be cased in triple steel, 'there; seal your forgiveness on it,' and she raised it towards his face. He kissed it again and again, and stretched over her as though desirous of extending the charity of his pardon beyond the hand that was offered to him. She managed, however, to check his ardour. For one so easily allured as this poor chaplain, her hand was surely enough."

By far the larger proportions of 'Barchester Towers' is ecclesiastical in its interest; but we have quoted that which will show that Mr. Trollope is not occupied only with the dialogues and dealings of Church men or Church matters. It should be added that Tom Towers, oracle of the *Jupiter*, is an ally of Obadiah Slope, and thunders in his behalf in vain.

*New Zealand; or, Zealandia: the Britain of the South.* By Charles Hursthouse. 2 vols. (Stanford.)

Mr. C. Hursthouse, as the title-page of his work informs us, is "a New Zealand colonist; and former visitor in the United States, the Canada, the Cape Colony, and Australia,"—in all of which countries his experiences have been mixed, his occupations general, and the information acquired of a multifarious kind. He has voyaged in every condition of emigrant,—and can institute useful comparisons between steerage, intermediate, and poop,—between prospects in America, where "pleasure and business" led him, and he was disappointed,—between the Cape, where he was wrecked, shot pheasants, and followed humming-birds through acres of geraniums,—and New Zealand, where he "bought wild land, and commenced at once the work of creating a little estate." Four years of hunting, farming, roughing, carpentry exercised on raupo-thatched huts, and bivouacking on inhospitable plains, with certain hours of earthquake, and uncertain weeks of "life on the ocean wave," have compelled Mr. Hursthouse to the conclusion that, after all, there is no place like home in New Zealand.

On this theme he has been lecturing—apparently, not without approbation—in different parts of the country; and this theme he pursues, with every kind of variation, throughout the 664 pages of these volumes. Lest the appetite of any prospective emigrant should pine for further detail, the author's address is affixed at the beginning and again at the end of the work, so as to satisfy the most exorbitant craving.

There can be little doubt that the pair of islands which the Dutch discoverer Tasman called New Zealand, and for which Mr. Hursthouse proposes the name "Zealandia" in climate, physical beauty, and geographical posi-



tion, are scarcely equalled, and not surpassed, in either hemisphere. The whalers who first visited them, not, generally speaking, of a romantic turn, seem to have been struck with their merits. Capt. Cook brought home so favourable a report that even sober Franklin became enthusiastic. The French twice competed with us for possession, and were only an hour too late.

An area of 20,000 miles of grassy plain, woody highland and dale, abundant rivers, close and deep anchorage under shores down to the water's edge smothered in verdure, with mountains implying possibilities of copper or iron, was doubtless a prize tempting enough. The race, too, that tenanted them, though addicted to unchristian preferences in food, were in cranial development higher than any aborigines in the world. Geology discovered in the strata the missing link between old and recent genera. Zoology exulted over unheard-of novelties,—snow-white herons and mouse-rats, *kivis*, or long-beaked hedge-hogs or stilts; *tuis*, or parson-birds, with black plumage and white throats; and *titis*, or mutton-birds, that are appetizing when potted in their own fat. There was a singular absence of quadrupeds,—no indigenous noxious animal,—and, with the exception of a couple of toads, scarcely a repulsive creature. Arborescent ferns and flax-plants, which supplied the natives with materials for mats and garments, fishing-lines and nets, were almost all the indigenous flora. Potatoes and pigs, which Capt. Cook imported, have attained a fabulous increase and dimensions. Bees, according to the author, have multiplied into a nuisance; and peach-trees realize the abundance of those products in the German fairy tales, that cry out "Pray eat me!"

Since 1824 New Zealand has proved the temptation and fall of all sorts of companies. The Maori have ceased from anthropophagous ways, and have been converted to stiff collars, tail-coats, and European vices. Land is cheap, and the climate promotes the growth of hair. Canterbury and Otago point a theological moral:—there is an excellent bishop adapted to the amphibious character of the diocese; and for those who have energy, endurance, and capital, New Zealand may be a desirable home. Talent and enterprise enough it has had spent on its soil; and we may be pardoned for supposing that the prospective New Zealander will be the product of a remote civilization. For topics of a practical agricultural kind, we refer inquiry to the book itself; which, we are bound to say, is in this respect well stored.

*The Lives of the Chief Justices of England, &c.*  
By John Lord Campbell, LL.D. Vol. III.

[Second Notice.]

Lord Campbell begins his notice of Lord Ellenborough, by commemorating "rough treatment" experienced from him for several years—professing the highest respect for his memory, as a man of gigantic intellect,—as having been "not only a consummate master of his own profession, but well initiated in mathematical science, and one of the best classical scholars of his day,"—whose "great faults" were consistent with effective and successful qualities befitting a Chief Justice. The memoir, then, is pitched in a different key from that in which the memoir of Kenyon is written; yet all Lord Campbell's candour and forgiveness do not prevent his giving his hero a characteristic pinch (as it were) when the child (who was born in Cumberland, in November, 1750) was yet a babe in his cradle. Law's irascible temper, notes our Lord Chief Justice, did not come to him by his in-

heritance. His father, who was a Low Church Bishop, was a man of serene and unruffled nature,—whose one official and moral fault is described as too bashful a fear of giving pain. Law's mother, too, was described by her imperious son as having been of no less admirable temper.

The boy was brought up at the Charterhouse, where he rose to the captainship of the school: his education was continued at Peterhouse, Cambridge. There he partook of his studies as other youths of his time did, in conjunction with drinking bouts;—clearing the wine out of his head with strong tea, when he wanted to read hard or calculate abstrusely; and among other relaxations, addicting himself (as many other hard-headed men of learning and science have done) to novel reading,—"*abominating*" (to quote the words) such tales as ended unhappily, and weeping over Mrs. Sheridan's "*Sidney Biddulph*,"—a tale which would draw few tears from the most mathematical or romantic pair of eyes, now-a-days.—Law was originally destined for the Church, but he felt his unfitness for holy orders,—withstood the gentle Bishop his father,—won the Cambridge Fellowship, which was to be the condition of his being allowed to choose his career,—and came up to a "small set of chambers in Lincoln's Inn," to fight his way onwards.—The struggle was not a very severe one. Repressing his impatience to display "the considerable powers of elocution" which he possessed, Law began his legal life as "special pleader under the Bar."

"He had great success, and business flowed in upon him, particularly from the agents of the Northern attorneys. His charge for answering cases was very small, but he put a modest estimate upon the real value of the commodity which he sold. Many years afterwards, when he was presiding at Nisi Prius, a wrong-headed attorney, pleading his own cause, and being overruled on some untenable points which he took, at last impatiently observed—'My Lord, my Lord, although your Lordship is so great a man now, I remember the time when I could have got your opinion for five shillings.' *Ellenborough, C.J.*: 'Sir, I dare say it was not worth the money!'"

After five years of drudgery, Law was called to the bar in 1780,—went the Northern Circuit, and "sowed his wild oats," as Lord Campbell discloses.—

"It was said that he had rather freely indulged in the gallantries of youth, and that he even for a time followed the example of the then Lord High Chancellor of Great Britain, the great prop of the Church, and chief distributor of ecclesiastical preferment, who openly kept a mistress,—Mrs. Harvey, celebrated in the '*Rolliad*,' and said to have been much courted by the clergy. But however this may be, Law was not supposed to have exceeded what was permitted by the licence of those times, and he was happily for ever rescued from the peril of scandal by being accidentally introduced to the beautiful Miss Towry, daughter of Mr. Towry, a commissioner of the navy, and a gentleman of good family. I myself recollect her become a mature matron, still a very fine woman, with regular features, and a roseate complexion; but when she first appeared, she excited admiration almost unprecedented. Amongst many others, Law came, saw, and was conquered. Considering his ungainly figure and awkward address, it seems wonderful that he should have aspired to her hand among a crowd of competitors—particularly as it was understood that she had already refused very tempting proposals. But he ever felt great confidence in himself, whatever he undertook; he now said, 'Faint heart never won fair lady,' he asked her father's leave to address her. The worthy commissioner gave his consent, having heard that this suitor was considered the most rising lawyer in Westminster Hall. But the young lady being interrogated, answered by a decided negative. Still the lover was undismayed—even (as it is said)

after a third rebuff. At last, by the charms of his conversation, and by the eulogiums of all her relations, who thought she was repelling a desirable alliance, her aversion was softened, and she became tenderly attached to him. The marriage took place on the 17th day of October, 1789, and proved most auspicious. Mrs. Law retained the beauty of Miss Towry; and such admiration did it continue to excite, that she was not only followed at balls and assemblies, but strangers used to collect in Bloomsbury Square to gaze at her as she watered the flowers which stood in her balcony."

Before, however, Law had become the happy possessor of this attractive lady, the basis of his high professional position in London had been laid, by his being called on in the memorable trial of Warren Hastings "to settle the answer to the articles of impeachment." This was equivalent to certain honour and fortune for one so capable of distinguishing himself as Law,—who took a prominent position as advocate and orator on the occasion, and did not hesitate to measure himself against some of the most brilliant and renowned men of the hour.—

"Law turned to good account the frivolity and vanity of Michael Angelo Taylor, a briefless barrister, who, although the butt of the Northern Circuit, had contrived to get himself appointed a Manager. An important point coming on for argument, Law observed—'It is really a pity to waste time in discussing such a point which must be clear to all lawyers; this is no point of political expediency, it is a mere point of law, and my honourable and learned Friend there (pointing to Michael Angelo), from his accurate knowledge of the law, which he has practised with so much success, can confirm fully what I say.' Michael puffed, and swelled, and nodded his head—when Burke ran up to him quite furious, and shaking him, said, 'You little rogue, what do you mean by assenting to this?'—Law was most afraid of Sheridan, but once ventured to try to ridicule a figurative observation of his that 'the treasures in the Zenana of the Begum were an offering laid by the hand of piety on the altar of a saint,' by asking, 'how the lady was to be considered a saint, and how the camels when they bore the treasure were to be laid upon the altar?' *Sheridan*.—'This is the first time in my life that I ever heard of special pleading on a metaphor, or a bill of indictment against a trope; but such is the turn of the learned gentleman's mind that when he attempts to be humorous no jest can be found, and when serious no fact is visible.'"

The last turn is Johnsonian in its terseness and severity; but Law was not a man to be laid flat. He had the satisfaction of being on the winning side, and, on the 23rd of April, 1795, of hearing

—"his client acquitted by a large majority of Peers; and he himself was warmly congratulated by his friends upon the happy event. It was expected that Burke would then have shaken hands with him; but still in Burke's sight Debi Sing could hardly have been more odious. Law had long the credit of making the celebrated epigram upon the leader of the impeachment—

Off have we wonder'd that on Irish ground  
No poisonous reptile has e'er yet been found;  
Reveal'd the secret stands of Nature's work,—  
She saved her venom to produce her Burke.

But it was composed by Dallas, as I was told, spontaneously, by Dallas himself, when he was Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. A most rankling hatred continued to subsist between Burke and all Mr. Hastings's counsel. \* \* Law's fees, considerably exceeding 3,000*l.*, were a poor pecuniary compensation to him for his exertions and his sacrifices in this great cause; but he was amply rewarded by his improved position in his profession. \* \* Independently of the real talent which he displayed, the very notoriety which he gained as leading counsel for Mr. Hastings was enough to make his fortune. Attorneys and attorneys' clerks were delighted to find themselves conversing at his chambers in the evening with the man upon whom all eyes had been turned in the morning in Westmin-

ster Hall—a pleasure which they could secure to themselves by a brief and a consultation."

It was about this time of Law's life that, under pressure of the bewildering and painful events which marked the first French Revolution, he passed through the change which has awaited so many men who began life as liberals, but whom the results of liberty pushed to licentiousness and the sight of loaves and fishes have partly terrified, partly allured into absolutism. From having been a known Whig, Law became a thorough-going Tory; attesting the sincerity of his conversion, and gratifying the Government's desire, by ensuring the conviction of Lord Thanet and Mr. Ferguson for assisting in the attempt to rescue Arthur O'Connor. Such glory as there might be in the victory was made the brighter by his being again pitted against Sheridan, and making that lively man of genius lose his head, though not his sharpness of tongue.

"Sheridan used afterwards to pretend that he had the best of it, and that he put Law down effectually. Among other questions and answers not to be found in the full and accurate report of the short-hand writer who was present, he used to relate—When Law said 'Pray, Mr. Sheridan, do answer my question without point of epigram,' I retorted, 'You say true, Mr. Law; your questions are without point of epigram.'"

In the year 1801 Law was appointed Attorney-General. It was a stormy time for an *Whig* eager to prove his sincerity of Toryism to take office in; but Law was one of those men who can breathe at their ease in stormy weather, if they do not absolutely enjoy the atmosphere. Of his personal courage he had given proof in a horse-racing trial at York, when, on some sharp words having passed, he postponed his journey to Durham and walked about booted and spurred before the coffee-house, the most public place in York, to answer any inquiries which might be made. There was at times an eagerness of partisanship amounting to fierceness, which, however earnestly it recommended him to Absolutist petitioners at a period when men's tempers were so unhappily inflamed, seems now repulsive and unbecoming in one called to such high duties. Lord Campbell gives a spirited sketch of Law's conduct in the trial of Governor Wall, whom "he showed a determined resolution to convict," smiting him (as it were) "hip and thigh," and exciting the sensibilities of the jury by the awful solemnity of his oratory.

"I should not like," says our Lord Chief Justice, "to be answerable for such a conviction. Then a very young man, just entered at Lincoln's Inn, I was present at the trial, and carried away by the prevalent venal enthusiasm, I thought that all was right; but after the lapse of half a century, having dispassionately examined the whole proceeding, I come to a very different conclusion."

On Lord Kenyon's death, in 1802, the Chief Justiceship and the title of Lord Ellenborough as *Poer* fell to Law's lot, as the reward for his party zeal, and also, of his commanding legal talent. He started in his new dignity by making professions of fairness and courtesy.

"The day when he took his seat in Court as Chief Justice," he said privately to an old friend that "his feelings as a barrister had been so often outraged by the insults of Lord Kenyon, he should now take care that no gentleman at the bar should have occasion to complain of any indignity in his court," and that he hoped any one who thought himself ill-used would resent it. Yet before the first term was over, he unjustifiably put down a hesitating juror; and ever after he was deeply offended by any show of resistance to his authority.

We cannot pretend to note the decisions in cases of peculiarity and interest which Lord

Campbell has assembled, while following the career of Law, from his elevation to his resignation, which took place in the year 1818. Some of these, moreover, are not likely to have passed out of the memories of those concerning themselves with the world of letters,—as, for instance, the trials of Mr. Leigh Hunt and Hone. But we may add to this notice a few of the scattered traits and Bar stories, with which Lord Campbell winds up his biography. As was natural, Lord Ellenborough did not much like law when the same was turned against himself.

"Lord Ellenborough had seen very little of foreign countries, and was rather intolerant of what he considered un-English. While in Paris, he went to attend a criminal trial at the Cour d'Assises, but when the interrogatory of the prisoner began, he made off, saying that it was contrary to the first principles of justice to call upon the accused to criminate himself. He saw still stronger reason to be disgusted with their civil procedure. He had hired a carriage by the day, with a coachman, from the *renise*. On one of the *quais* the coachman, by furious driving, wilfully damaged some *erckery*—ware exposed to sale by an old woman. She screamed; a *sergent de ville* came up; the carriage was stopped, and Milord Angluis was called upon to pay a large sum of money by way of *amende*. He denied his liability, and insisted that, according to the doctrine of *Macnairus v. Cricket*, 1 *East*, 106, the only remedy was against the coachman himself, or against the keeper of the *renise*; but he was cast, and had to pay damages and costs."

The following stories need no comment.

"A young counsel who had the reputation of being a very impudent fellow, but whose memory failed him when beginning to recite a long speech which he had prepared, having uttered these words—'The *unfortunate client* who appears by me—the *unfortunate client* who appears by me—My Lord, my *unfortunate client*—' the Chief Justice interposed, and almost whispered in a soft and encouraging tone—'You may go on, Sir—so far the Court is quite with you.' \* \* \* Mr. Caldecot, a great Sessions lawyer, but known as a dreadful bore, was arguing a question upon the rateability of certain lime quarries to the relief of the poor, and contended at enormous length that, like lead and copper mines, they were not rateable, because the limestone in them could only be reached by deep boring, which was matter of science." Lord Ellenborough, *C.J.*—You will hardly succeed in convincing us, Sir, that every species of boring is 'matter of science.' \* \* \* A Quaker coming into the witness-box at Guildhall without a broad brim or dittoes, and rather smartly dressed, the crier put the book into his hand and was about to administer the oath, when he required to be examined on his *affirmation*. Lord Ellenborough asking if he was really a Quaker, and being answered in the affirmative, exclaimed, 'Do you really mean to impose upon the Court by appearing here in the disguise of a reasonable being?' A witness dressed in a fantastical manner having given very rambling and discreditable evidence, was asked in cross-examination, 'What he was?' *Witness*.—I employ myself as a surgeon." Lord Ellenborough, *C.J.*—But does any one else employ you as a surgeon? \* \* \* Henry Hunt, the famous demagogue, having been brought up to receive sentence upon a conviction for holding a seditious meeting, began his address in mitigation of punishment, by complaining of certain persons who had accused him of stirring up the people by *dangerous eloquence*." Lord Ellenborough, *C.J.* (in a very mild tone).—My impartiality as a Judge calls upon me to say, Sir, that in accusing you of that they do you great injustice. \* \* \* A very tedious Bishop having yawned during his own speech, Lord Ellenborough exclaimed, 'Come, come, the fellow shows some symptoms of taste, but this is encroaching on our province.' \* \* \* Soon after he was made Chief Justice he left Bloomsbury Square for a magnificent house in St. James's Square. To give an idea of its size to an old lawyer who lived in Chancery Lane, and to whom he was describing it, he said, 'Sir, if you let off

a piece of ordnance in the hall, the report is not heard in the bed-rooms."

The concluding biography in this volume, as the reader is aware, is devoted to Lord Tenterden. This life, though less rich in anecdote than the lives of Kenyon and Ellenborough, is full of instruction,—as must be all biographies of those who have risen from humble life to fairly-earned distinction and merited honour. So long as boys are born into the world, the story of the son of the barber of Canterbury—of his scholarship—of his advancement—of his legal sagacity—of his kindness to all who had claims on him—and of his dignified and tender admission of an origin which a vulgar man might have hesitated to own,—will be told, and told again.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE

*Essays from the Edinburgh and Quarterly Reviews, with Addresses and other Pieces.* By Sir John Herschel, Bart. (Longman & Co.) The better the name the less occasion is there to take full notice of a collected edition of scattered writings. The few words we say on the present volume may well be headed by congratulation. Since his retirement from the Mastership of the Mint, Sir John Herschel has been either in acute ill health, or in slow and varying convalescence. This volume may be taken as earnest of something like perfect recovery, superintended as it has been by the author himself. It contains an address on Reading Clubs and Societies (1853); essays, the subjects of which may be gathered by stating that they are reviews of Mrs. Somerville's 'Mechanism of the Heavens' (1833), of Gauss on 'Magnetism' (1840), of Whewell on the 'Inductive Sciences' (1840), of Humboldt's 'Cosmos' (1845), of Quetelet on 'On Probabilities' (1850). It also contains addresses to the Astronomical Society on delivering medals; the Life of Francis Baily, an address to the same Society; Poems; and rules for the phonetic representation of languages, from the Admiralty 'Manual of Scientific Inquiry.' Sir John Herschel is known to be a poet among friends, and one or two pieces have been published,—especially his hexameter and pentameter translation of Schiller's 'Walk.' To these measures he is much addicted; and if easy flow of words and sparkle of thought could naturalize these Latin ecrotics, Sir John Herschel would have done it. But the only hexameter which our language will yield is the *cantering* hexameter,—too many dactyls. Before the day when *intentional* hexameters were cultivated, a good spondee line used to be quoted as an accident. It was the text "Husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them." But this is the only spondee line we ever saw in English. Hexameters will never thrive with us. Let them arise in our prose when they will; we shall make no objection: even pentameters may cater away if they please. But we are sure that our language will never accord with the metre; nor will the metre itself suit an unlatinized ear. It is not impossible that an approach to these forms of verse, supported by rhyme, might find a stable footing. We extract a rhymed couple of stanzas, the first of which was made in a dream (Nov. 28, 1841,) and written down immediately on waking:—  
Throw thyself on thy God, nor mock him with feeble denial;  
Sure of his love, and oh! sure of his mercy at last,  
Bitter and deep though the draught, yet shun not the cup  
of trial,  
But in its healing effect, smile at its bitterness past.  
Pray for that holier cup while sweet with bitter lies blend—  
Tears in the cheerful eye, smiles on the sorrowing cheek,  
Death expiring in life, when the long-drawn struggle is ending;  
Triumph and joy to the strong, strength to the weary and weak.

*Germaine.* By Edmond About. (Hachette & Co.) We do not remember a tale built on an invention more disagreeable than this. It would serve no good purpose to narrate why it is convenient for the rich nobleman, who is hero, to buy a wife on the express understanding that she is not to live. Suffice it to say, that such a strange com-



modify is found in Germaine, who, to rescue the impoverished family of La Tour d'Ensemble from a destitution which had arrived at the point of the Duchesse paying her wedding-ring, consents to the hideous bargain. Every child—after this—will have jumped to the sequel—which is Germaine's slow recovery, in spite of a pretty stout resolution to the contrary on the part of other personages of the novel, whose evil contrivances fall on their own heads, in a wreck and a ruin which will satisfy the appetite most ravenous for poetical justice. Original, no doubt, Germaine is, but, as we have said, most exceedingly disagreeable. The sooner that M. About gives us an opportunity of forgetting it—in some less repulsive story—the better.

*Remarks on the Differences in Shakespeare's Versification in different Periods of his Life; and on like Points of Difference in his Poetry.* (Parker & Son.)—Many have been the fond essays generally written on Shakespeare, a subject as inexhaustible as all great and true things must for ever be. Here a cultivated and well-bred author, not very original, not very profound, treats us to a volume ostensibly containing remarks on Shakespeare's versification and its respective periods, just as if the author of 'Romeo and Juliet,' carried through his plays a series of experiments carefully conducted on principle. Need we at this time of day point out that such a course of artistic (not to say pedantic) labour, however congenial to the professional life or reflective habits of a Goethe, is absurd if ascribed to the deer-stealer of Charlotte Park? that Shakespeare could no more have reasoned on, or provided for, diversity or growth, a later or an earlier style (if such things exist), than the flower can give a reason for bud, blossom, and yellow leaf, as they appear on its stem? It is charming to play with fancies to any amount in regard to these deathless works; but play is play, and fancy will be fancy, and the one is too frivolous, and the other too speculative and evanescent to be worth exposing to the gaze of other players and fanciers.—There is much to be said on Shakespeare's versification among that of all other poets, in connexion with, or illustration of, the laws of musical cadence and accent; seeing that there is no really good line of verse for which its equivalent arrangement of sounds could not be found in the book of the sister art. But from its musical side the mechanism of the poets has never been approached, save in one or two hints rather than criticisms, by Mr. Leigh Hunt, and this very ingenious consideration on the subject put forth by the late George Darley. The author of this little volume, at all events, cannot be credited with depth, knowledge, or discrimination sufficient for the task. What he has written is well meant, and sometimes nicely expressed; but does not amount to a first-class contribution to the Shakespeare library of annotation and comment.

*A Catalogue of the Bibliotheca Orientalis Sprengeriana.* (Williams & Norgate.)—Dr. Sprenger has spent thirteen years in the East, three of which were passed at Delhi, as the head of one of the principal native colleges; two in cataloguing the manuscripts at Lakhnan, "now the principal seat of Oriental lore in India"; two in travelling through Egypt, Syria, Mesopotamia, Irak, and the islands of the Persian Gulf; and the rest at Calcutta, where he held the office of Examiner in Oriental languages. He has thus had the amplest opportunities of making himself acquainted with the best Oriental works still existing in the East, and has succeeded in collecting a valuable and well-assorted library. As Dr. Sprenger's return to India on expiration of his furlough is uncertain, he regards his labours as a collector at an end; and, accordingly, the time is come to publish a catalogue of his library,—for, as he justly observes, "literary treasures are in a certain sense public property." The Catalogue enumerates 1,972 volumes, of which 245 belong to the departments of history and geography; 156 to genealogy and biography; 95 are commentaries on the Kurán; 103 are critical works and collections of Hadis, or traditional sayings; 172 relate to law and religion; 205 to mysticism and ethics; 155 are dictionaries and grammars; 43 poetry; and the rest miscellaneous. The most cursory glance into this Catalogue will convince any orientalist of the value of

Dr. Sprenger's library; and should he be inclined to part with it, it would be a very desirable acquisition for some one of our public institutions. At the India House, for example, a separate room might be well afforded for its reception. It is, indeed, fortunate that one so well qualified as Dr. Sprenger should have been able to spend years in gleaming what is most valuable of the fast-perishing treasures of the East. Books are no longer safe among Orientals. We should be glad to hear that the "531 Arabic manuscripts which are for sale at Basrah, on the banks of the Tigris," and which have been just catalogued for Dr. Sprenger, are likely to be purchased by some public-spirited officer with our forces in the Persian Gulf, or that Government would empower some one to ascertain the value of works which will probably be otherwise soon numbered with the things that have ceased to be.

*A Manual of Ancient Geography.* By Dr. L. Schmitz. (Edinburgh, Black; London, Longman & Co.)—In compliance with the request of several persons of high educational position, Dr. Schmitz has prepared this companion to his *Manual of Ancient History*, and thus performed a useful task. He commences with an introductory history of ancient geography, and then treats of Europe, Asia, and Africa, which he describes in detail as they were in the time of Augustus. His method is simple and natural, embracing an account of the physical features of the different countries, the principal places in them—with an explanation of the circumstances that render them memorable—the ethnology of the inhabitants, and as much of their history as is desirable. The work is enriched with a large and valuable map, showing the probable route of the Ten Thousand on their retreat, for which Dr. Schmitz acknowledges his obligations to General Monteith, long a resident in those parts.

An illustrated edition of Mr. Tennyson's *Poems* has been long talked of as a thing on which many artists were labouring in a spirit of love. The volume is now on our table; and we may at once say that expectation will not suffer reverse. It is a beautiful and splendid book: worthy of the artists engaged, and worthy of the poet beloved by all artists. More than fifty drawings, from the hands of Messrs. Gussakoff, Mulready, Stanfield, Macfise, and some younger painters, adorn this precious work,—to which is prefixed a bust of Mr. Tennyson, by Robinson.—M.M. Firmin Didot, of Paris, have produced a pocket edition of *Horace*, the edition of John Bond, of classic and Elzevir fame,—with copious notes, an admirable introductory sketch of the poet's life by Noël des Vergers, and a series of studies and landscapes illustrative of the text. This is a delicious edition.—Among other interesting reprints which court notice, we have before us *Gossip*, by Henry Morley, from 'Household Words';—*Precept and Practice*, by Harry Hieover;—*Eustace Conyers*, by Mr. Hannay, which re-appears in Messrs. Chapman & Hall's "Select Library of Fiction,"—a new edition of Mrs. Webb's *Martyrs of Carthage*;—*The Wonders of the Abendberg*, by L. Gausson. We have before us a second edition of Mr. George Finlay's *History of Greece under the Romans*,—of Herr Heinzel's *Ireneva*, its usage and sense in Holy Scripture;—and a third edition of Hunt *On the Cure of Stammering*.—The following translations may be passed directly to the reader.—*Zenophon's Minor Works*, by the Rev. J. S. Watson, in Mr. Bohn's "Classical Library";—*Earth and Man*, from the French of Arnold Guyot, by C. C. Felton;—and the *Friar's Saga*, from the Swedish of Tegnér, by the Rev. W. L. Blackney.—A new edition of *Walton's Lives*, with a memoir by Mr. Dowling, deserves a separate word of praise. It is a pretty imprint, in characteristic type, with notes brief, clear, and full of knowledge. There is no better edition of Walton than this one, either as to printing or editing. It leaves us nothing to desire.

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POPE'S FATHER—HIS FIRST WIFE—AND POPE'S HALF-SISTER, MRS. RACKETT.

We stated incidentally a short time since [ante, p. 781] that Mrs. Rackett, though called sister-in-law by Pope in his will, was his half-sister—the daughter of his father by a first wife, and not, as assumed by his biographers, the daughter of his mother by a first husband. We adduced, as sufficient for our immediate purpose, the account published at the time of Pope's mother's death, and we believe written by Pope himself, wherein he is described as "her only child."

As our attention is again called to the subject, we shall offer evidence—conclusive in itself—and suggest a few circumstances, which, with due diligence on the part of biographers, may possibly help them to further information.

A bookseller's catalogue is we know by experience a ticklish subject. We hope, however, that Mr. Hotten is a modest man,—not emulous of the fame of Edmund Curll,—not so easily to be made a tool of. In this faith we shall notice a small contribution made to the biography of Alexander Pope in the *Adversaria* attached to his Catalogue just published. "Trifling as it may appear, it is worth something."

A correspondent of Mr. Hotten's has found in the Manchester Free Library an old London Directory of 1677, and therein appears

"Alexand. Pope, Broad street."  
Strange that while the biographers of Pope were agreed that his father was a merchant or trader in the City of London, and were wasting pages in speculation and discussion as to where he resided, not one of them thought of referring to a Directory. We trust they will be the wiser for Mr. Hotten's hint; for if, as asserted, the elder Pope was in business when the son was born, a later Directory might determine the poet's birthplace, and thus set another of the vexed questions at rest. Here, however, we have him resident in Broad Street in 1677, and the strong presumption therefore is that he was a freeman of one or other of the City Com-

panies. Have the Registers been searched? They might tell us what he was,—another question not decided to our satisfaction.

Mr. Hotten's correspondent admits that "the identity of Alexander Pope is, of course, conjectural, but the conjecture is a probable one." That identification we are enabled to offer, and at the same time to determine another vexed question of some interest. Part of Broad Street is in the parish of St. Bennet-Fink, and the Register records:—

"1679, 12 Aug<sup>th</sup>. Buried, Magdalen, the wife of Allixander Pope."

Here, then, we have, for the first time, evidence that the elder Pope resided in Broad Street in 1677—1679; and there died and was buried, in 1679, Magdalen, the wife of Alexander Pope the Elder. There can be no doubt that this Magdalen Pope was the wife of the poet's father, and the mother of Magdalen Rackett, who, as we have shown, and shall hereafter prove, on the evidence of the poet himself, was the daughter of Pope's father by a first wife: and thus the question of relationship between Mrs. Rackett and Pope will be decided after a century of discussion, and against the recorded judgment of the biographers. We learn also from a comparison of this Register with the inscription on the monument at Twickenham that Pope's father was about or above forty when he married his second wife. Pope believed that his mother was two years older than his father; but that was a mistake, for from the Register of her baptism at Worsborough, June 18, 1642, which follows, within seven months, the baptism of an elder sister, she appears to have been ninety-one instead of ninety-three at the time of her death. Mrs. Rackett was, it now appears, at least nine years older than Pope.

The fact being established that Magdalen Rackett was the daughter of Pope's father, it materially bears on the question as to the amount of his property; for as he left her and her husband but 6*l*. each for mourning, it must be inferred that he had given her or her husband her entire fortune before he made his will.

It is curious how little we hear of the Racketts, although Mrs. Rackett was personally known to Spence and probably to Warburton. We, indeed, cannot but believe that some facts might be learnt by research in that direction. Charles Rackett, who married Magdalen Pope, must have been a man of some property, and of respectable position. He resided at Hall Grove, near Bagshot. In the 'History of Surrey,' we have an account of "Windlesham, with Bagshot," from which we learn that there is a manor of Foster at Windlesham within the manor. We are also told—at least so we understand the somewhat obscure passage—that, in the seventeenth century, Field or Alfield sold a moiety of the manor to Mr. Montague, who sold it to Mr. Ragette. Further, that in 1694, a court was held in the names of J<sup>s</sup> Field, lord of one moiety, and of John Hart and Edw<sup>d</sup> Greentree, lords of the other moiety,—from which we infer that the property was then held in trust for Charles Rackett. In describing the present state of Windlesham, the writer says, besides Bagshot Park, there are several elegant seats and ornamental villas, "the most conspicuous of which are Hall Grove," &c.

Pope was at Hall Grove when Mr. Weston—husband of the mysterious "Mrs. W." of his letters—announced his intention of dining there. Pope, with a chivalry which had drawn some scandal upon him, had not only quarrelled with Mr. Weston about his conduct towards his wife, but with the Racketts for countenancing him [*Athen.* No. 1394]; and it is probable that Weston's letter was given to him; in proof that the Racketts had no foreknowledge of Weston's visit. By strange accident this letter has been preserved.—

"Sep. 9<sup>th</sup>, 1717.

"S<sup>r</sup>,—Our Ladys doe Designe to waight on you and Mrs. Raket tomorrow att Dinner, if not inconvenient to you, we all Desire that you would make noe Strangers of us In which you will Adde much to the Obligations of

"Your Real friend,

"JOHN WESTON.

"Pray All our Respects to Mrs. Raket and my Cousin Manuke."

Pope alludes to this visit of Weston's in one of his published letters; but what with mutilations, additions, and the obtuseness of "Moses B—," the reference is unintelligible. We are, however, indebted to Mr. Carruthers (Vol. I. p. 47) for an extract from the original letter addressed to Martha Blount, and dated the 13<sup>th</sup> of September. Weston's letter is dated the 9<sup>th</sup> of September, which was Monday, and Pope wrote:—

"I \* \* galloped to Staines; kept Miss Griffin from Church all the Sunday, and lay at my brother's near Bagshot that night [Sunday night]. \* \* I arrived at Mr. Doncastles by Tuesday noon, having fled from the face [I wish I could say the horned face] of Mr. Weston, who dined that day at my brother's."

No doubt these country gentlemen rose early, dined early, and therefore Pope started early to avoid the meeting.

We infer from Pope's letters to Fortescue and other circumstances that Charles Rackett was engaged in some lawsuit which was not concluded when he died. Administration was granted to his Widow Magdalen, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November, 1728, in which he is described as late of Windlesham. In 1749 administration for goods left unadministered to by Magdalen was granted to Henry Rackett, the son.

We presume that Mrs. Rackett had property of her own, or property settled to her own use, probably received from her father; for we find from MS. accounts in our possession relating to the estate of a Catholic Lady Carrington, that 55*l*. a year, as interest on 1,100*l*., is regularly charged as paid to Mrs. Rackett from October, 1723, to June, 1730; and in her Will, dated so long after as 1746, Magdalen Rackett refers to money due to her and received on, or arising from, the estate of Lady Carrington. In 1731 Pope was anxious about one of his nephews, and thus wrote to his friend Caryll—we quote from unpublished letters:—

6 Dec. 1730. "One of my troubles is about a nephew of mine, a very honest, reasonable and religious young man, who having nothing (or very little more than nothing) to depend on but his practice as an attorney, and just come to be qualified in it by fourteen years' application, is deprived all at once of the means of his subsistence by the late Act of Parliament disqualifying any from practising as such without taking the oaths. After having tried all methods to find favour by personal interest made to the Judges, I am convinced no way is left him to live, unless I can procure some nobleman to employ him as a steward, or keeper of his Courts on some part of their estates. My own acquaintance (as you know) has happened not to run much in a Catholic channel; and of all the rest I despair. I know if it is possible for you to help me you will. Mr. Fortescue now a great man and the Prince's Attorney General assured me there can nothing else be done, and suggested to me the thought if he could be employed in this capacity, by the L<sup>d</sup> Petre, offering me to speak to Sir Rob<sup>t</sup> Abdey for him with whom he has a particular intimacy. I naturally thought of applying to you on my part, and could such a thing be brought about, I should be very happy. The young man's character is every way unexceptionable as well as his capacity or (I believe you know) I would not propose the nearest relation I had to this or any other worthy family, or through your mediation."

Caryll and Sir Robert Abdey were, we believe, two of Lord Petre's executors, who had control over the estate during the minority of his son. Caryll replied, and Pope thus thanked him:—

6 Feb. 1730-1. "I thank you for your kind promise in relation to my nephew in case of any future opportunity in Lord Petre's family, and I doubted not your long-experienced friendship would have assisted me, in him, had the occasion presented. Mr. Pigot, you know, has lost his son, which I am concerned for, but he told me there was no way for our poor conscientious Papists to take but to pass for clerks to some Protestants, and get into business thereby laying hold of their cloaks, as they used to try to get to Heaven by laying hold of a Franciscan's habit. \* \* I'll now answer all your Queries as they lie. \* \* My sister Rackett was my own father's daughter by a former

wife. \* \* I'm taken up very unpleasantly in a law suit of my sister's, which carries me too often to London, which neither agrees with my health nor my humour."

The last reference we remember to this nephew is in another unpublished letter to Caryll.—

Twickenham, 31 Jan. 1734. "I formerly mentioned to you a nephew of mine, bred an Attorney, but by nature and Grace both, an honest man, which even that education hath not overcome. I am told there is a reform in the D. of N—k's stewards or bailiffs; and if you [have] any means to recommend him to keep Courts, &c., as one of our Religion, perhaps they might use him. I'm told L<sup>d</sup> Stafford has a particular influence there; but I have little or no acquaintance either with y<sup>e</sup> son (as he is) of my friend Mr. Stafford or the Daughter (as the Duchess is) of my particular friend, Ned Blunt. Yet, perhaps his being my nephew would not be a circumstance to either to reject him, if they were applied to, which I have more modesty than to do."

Magdalen Rackett died in 1747 or 1748. Her Will is dated the 16<sup>th</sup> of May, 1746, and was proved, with three codicils, in 1748. She is therein described as widow, of the parish of St. George the Martyr, in the county of Middlesex. The executors are, Henry Rackett, George Rackett, and George Wilmot. So far as our memory and notes made long since can be relied on, she bequeaths to her eldest son, Michael, an annuity of 50*l*. per annum, secured on certain messuages and tenements at Windlesham,—leaves small sums—by codicil, we think, 200*l*. and 300*l*. each—to her sons Bernard, Henry and John, and bequeaths the whole of the residue to her son Robert, assigning as her reason for this preference, that she had not done so much for him as for her other children, on whom she had already spent considerable sums in settling them in life. Certain legacies she directs "to be paid out of my late brother's personal estate at the death of Mrs. Martha Blount"; and she mentions money belonging to her secured upon the estate of Lady Carrington. She bequeaths some pictures to her "good friend William Mannock," if her son Robert be willing to part with them. This was probably Spence's informant, "Mr. Mannock,"—the "cousin Manuke" of Weston. By a codicil dated the 30<sup>th</sup> of June, 1746, she bequeaths, in the event of the death of her son Robert, the residue to George Lamont, of Green Street, Leicester Fields, Doctor of Physic, and to John Byfield, of the parish of St. George the Martyr, organ-builder, in trust for the issue of Robert; and in another document, she mentions Alexander, the son, and Charles, the eldest son of her son Bernard. She twice mentions her white parchment Account-Book, and names George Wilmot as the executor who is to have possession of it.

Amongst deaths announced in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for January, 1780, is that of "Robert Rackett, Esq., the last surviving nephew of Alexander Pope." In his Will he is described as of Devonshire Street, Queen Square, gentleman. It is dated the 20<sup>th</sup> of October, 1775, with a codicil dated the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, 1778, and was proved the 29<sup>th</sup> of December, 1779. He therein sets forth the Will of his brother, Henry Rackett, of East Street, near Red Lyon Square; from which it appears that Henry had left personal property to the value of about 4,000*l*. to his brother Robert, subject to the payment of an annuity of 80*l*. a year to his own widow, Mary Rackett, and of 500*l*. due to her under their marriage settlement. Robert directs his executors to fulfil the trusts of his brother's Will. He gives all the furniture, &c. in his house to his servant, Mrs. M<sup>c</sup>Carty, and, by codicil, an annuity of 20*l*.—100 guineas to each of his executors,—and all the residue to his executors in trust for his grand-nephews, Robert Rackett and George Rackett, sons of his late nephew Alexander; and in default to his nephew Charles Rackett, of the city of Chester, or his children, if any living. The witnesses to the will sign as "clerks to Mr. Robert Rackett."

It appears from this Will that the last of the sons of Magdalen Rackett died in 1779; and the probabilities are, that at that time she had a grandson living at Chester, and two great-grandchildren,

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Robert and George, probably youths, also living. We have set forth the names of executors and others, because it may help the curious to further information;—even the white parchment Account-Book, with its possible revelations, may yet be in unhonoured existence.

#### M. ALEXANDRE THOMAS.

WE have to record the early death of M. Alexandre Thomas, ex-Professor of History in the University of France, and author of a work of great merit and research, 'Une Province sous Louis XIV.' M. Thomas had also been for about three years a contributor to the *Journal des Débats* when the overthrow of constitutional government, and the destruction of the institutions on which he had founded all his hopes for France, broke his career in the very midst of its promise. The turn which political affairs took, and the consequent suppression of free discussion, were so intolerable to him that he gave up his chair and went into voluntary exile.

His first resting-place was Brussels, where, hoping still to serve France by his pen, he in connexion with some friends established a little journal, called *Le Bulletin Français*. The sentiments of which it was the organ were too distasteful to the present ruler of France not to bring down upon it measures for its suppression;—and though, to the honour of a Belgian jury, the editors obtained an acquittal, they saw that it would be impossible to prolong its existence.

In 1851 M. Thomas came to England, with the intention of fixing himself in this country, and of making to himself some quiet literary position here, especially—that was his ardent desire—at either of the Universities. But the difficulty, or rather impossibility, of finding what he sought—a modest subsistence, literary labour, and abstraction from the world,—gradually made itself clear to him, and the future more and more dark and uncertain.

Those who saw and felt this for him, in spite of their reverence for the feelings which led him to prefer a life of solitude, anxiety and privation, to the sacrifice of principle, could scarcely suppress the wish that, like most of his countrymen who had quitted France under similar circumstances, he could consent to return to a country which offered him at least personal safety and the means of pursuing the ordinary business of life. But to a man of his character, this was not enough. The spectacle offered by France was too painful and humiliating to him; especially since his disgust and disapprobation were provoked less by the government than by the general "moral misery," as he called it, which rendered such a government possible. Besides, as he said, if he were a shoemaker he might pursue his work; but as his business was to write and to speak, and as he would be required to write and to speak what he did not think, it was impossible for him to return. With a view to acquire facility in speaking English, M. Thomas lived for awhile in the family of a Welsh clergyman. His letters written from this retirement show his deep feeling for nature, and his affectionate reverence for the simple and unaffected virtues which rendered his abode dear and salutary to him. Indeed, all his letters breathe that rare and delicate moral sensibility which was at once his true superiority and his mortal disease.

M. Alex. Thomas was too eminent a man not to excite attention and interest in this country, and during the first two seasons of his residence in England he delivered courses of lectures on portions of French history, to a distinguished audience. We have before us a letter in which he speaks with pride of the feelings with which he saw on the benches before him Lords Lansdowne and Carlisle, Messrs. Grote, Hallam, and Macaulay. Yet even such marks of respect from such men could not reconcile him to an expedient in which there was something at variance with his high spirit of independence and personal dignity,—and while gratefully acknowledging the attention paid to him, he expressed to his friends his determination not to repeat it. Those who heard his last lecture cannot have forgotten the profound agitation and suffering with which he spoke of his country. It was easy

to see that all his bitterness against France arose from the wounds inflicted on his passionate love for her by a political condition and attitude which seemed to him so unworthy of her.

While he was pondering on schemes for his occupation and support, a friend suggested to him to attempt an article for the *Edinburgh Review*. The result was the article on the French Protestant Emigrants, and especially those who had settled in England, for which M. Thomas collected a vast deal of new and interesting matter from the British Museum. The success of this article, and his own deep interest in the subject, led him to undertake a life of the great Huguenot, Duplessis Mornay. While occupied in his researches for this work, M. Thomas was for a time tranquil and, comparatively, happy. He lived in constant intercourse with those noble and severe spirits who attracted all his sympathy, and his letters, written at this time, show the enthusiasm with which he was filled by every new discovery of an act of heroic virtue, or a proof of conscientious attachment to principle. It is to be hoped that this book will see the light. It is full of interest to English readers, who will find there the correspondence of some of their own greatest men of that illustrious age with their co-religionists in France.

We should say more of our regrets for the loss of so estimable a man, did we not feel that for him there was no other tranquillity possible than that which he now enjoys. To use the expressive words of one of his countrymen, "Il a succombé à une maladie qui atteint et tue peu de monde—l'indignation du mal." To those who watched with respectful pity the slow corrosion of that rare disease, and who recognized its hopelessness, his departure was consolatory, and they gladly think of that noble and wounded spirit as removed to a more congenial region.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP.

TO-DAY, should sunshine brighten the air, the Crystal Palace will be seen in its summer glory. It is the first Flower Show of the season. Need we say more to conjure up green and roseate vistas, sparkling with beauty?

Chiswick opens its hospitable gates on Wednesday and Thursday next week to the public. The gardens are in full beauty,—and the exhibition, we are told, is likely to prove one of extreme interest to those who cultivate flowers and gardens.

The designs for the New Palaces of Administration which shall find most favour in the eyes of the judges will be exhibited in Westminster Hall separately after the awards are made. The present exhibition will close on Saturday next, June 6, and the successful plans will be exhibited in July.

A curious collection of Shakspeariana, and of the early Quarto Plays of the great poet, have recently passed under the hammer of Messrs. Sotheby & Wilkinson, at high prices. The following are worthy of notice:—Chamberlain's Isabella, containing jest respecting Shakspeare, 5*l.* 15*s.*—Mirror of Majestic; or, the Badges of Honour, first edition, 20*l.* 10*s.*—Greene's Fortune's Tennis Ball, containing a metrical version of the story upon which is founded the 'Winter's Tale,' 4*l.*—Johnson's Golden Garland of Princely Pleasures, 12*l.*—May's Epigrams, printed in 1633, 16*l.* 10*s.*—Johnson's Famous History of the Seven Champions of Christendom, 1608, 7*l.*—Lanier's Salve Deus Rex Judeorum, 10*l.* 10*s.*—Spenser's Britain's Ida, evidently written in the style of Shakspeare's 'Venus and Adonis,' 11*l.*—Wit for Money, probably unique, 13*l.*—Shakspeare's Life and Death of King Lear, edition of 1608, 20*l.* 10*s.*—True Tragedie of Richard Duke of Yorke, the second edition, 63*l.*—Much Ado about Nothing, first edition, 65*l.*—second part of Henrie the Fourth, first edition, of the highest rarity, 100*l.*—History of Henrie the Fourth, second edition of the first part, 75*l.*—Tragedie of King Richard the Second, edition of 1608, 30*l.* 10*s.* The sale produced 1,047*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*

The Fellows of Cambridge pray to be relieved of their monastic vows:—pray to the University Commissioners, and through them to the House of Commons and the public. Their desire is natural and just. Why should any order of scholars in our

country be condemned to a celibate life? Clergymen marry. Saints of all sorts, male and female, marry. Except the unhappy Fellows of Colleges no class of persons is deprived of home, domestic love and family affections. How they bear the loss many a merry legend telleth. But we need not lift a corner of the curtain behind which unwedded life transforms itself into unwedded love. Among reforms sought on the Cam we know of scarcely any against which so little can be honestly urged as against a modification of the old monkish law of celibate life.

A retail bookseller defends the retail trade from a charge preferred last week by a Correspondent. He says:—

"May 23.  
"A Correspondent complains in your to-day's number of the extortion of the London booksellers in exacting 1*s.* 3*d.* and 1*s.* 6*d.* for French volumes of the *Lévy* series, published in Paris at 1 franc, or 1*f.* 25*c.* à *l'étranger*. Now without wishing for a moment to dispute the reason of the complaint, I should be glad with your permission to exonerate by a word those retail booksellers who, like myself, make foreign books simply an auxiliary to their more general trade, and who in consequence are almost compelled to buy of London houses, from so unpleasant a charge as 'taking advantage of an accidental (?) circumstance to make a larger profit than their due.' The fact is, that we ourselves pay 1*s.* 3*d.* each to the London importers for these books, and therefore cannot afford (especially if living in the country and paying carriage) to sell them for less than 1*s.* 6*d.* I believe the trade price in Paris is much the same for these as for the regular *chemin de fer* franc volumes,—at all events, I know certainly that they might very well be imported to sell here at 1*s.* It would appear, however, that the 25*c.* à *l'étranger* is a sort of *cum privilegio bonus* to the English wholesalers, and of which in faith they make right good use; but to them alone be the obloquy, if any, of such a proceeding. So much publicity has been given at various times to the retail bookseller's English profits, that we feel no hesitation in adding our French ones also. Our 25 per cent. has become so notorious, and our over-reaching propensity so patent, that the generous public understand our 1*s.* as 10*d.*, 1*s.* 6*d.* as 1*s.* 4*d.*, 2*s.* as 1*s.* 8*d.*, and so on, that we hope to cultivate their better opinion of our moderation, and to be permitted to retain the standard value of our pounds, shillings, and pence when we tell them that our maximum profit on foreign books generally confines itself to only 20 per cent. As you listened to the remonstrance of 'D.,' so I hope, Sir, you will kindly give tone to this small voice of

#### "A SMALL BOOKSELLER."

No reader of the *Athenæum* need be informed of our lack of confidence in the Prize-Essay system, as a means of reaching the public. It is immoral in means,—a failure in effect. No prize essay is ever read. But prize essays on reformation and amelioration are the most deceptive and immoral of all. Here, for example, is a prize of 25*l.* offered by the United Association of Schoolmasters for the best essay 'On the best Means of making the Schoolmaster's Function more efficient than it has hitherto been in preventing Misery and Crime.' Will anybody tell us what this means? What is the schoolmaster's function? Is it a *ferule*? Can a function prevent? Possibly the Association of Schoolmasters wish to learn how to fertilize education. But is this a question to be disturbed in the interests of public progress by writers whom the hope of earning 25*l.* can inspire?

The sale of a great part of the Libri Library is announced as commencing at Paris on the 2nd of July. As our readers now know, it is sold by M. Libri himself, not by the French Government. This circumstance adds an interest to a catalogue which is otherwise one of the most remarkable of our day for the very large number of rare books which it contains in arts and sciences, literature, history, theology, and all the *et cetera*. The strongest part is Italian literature and science; but the collection is by no means limited to Italian books.

The celebrated mathematician, M. Cayley, died near Paris on the 23rd instant. For the last forty

years he has been well known to the scientific world, though his subjects, the most abstract forms of mathematics and mathematical physics, were not such as to gain a popular reputation. He has added many useful things to the more profound parts of mathematics, and his facility in, and command over, the language of the modern analysis were probably unequalled. He was a strong partizan of the house of Bourbon, and for some years was in exile with them. Some of his scarcest mathematical pieces were printed, some lithographed, while he was wandering with one or another branch of the exiled family. He was a Roman Catholic of the severest kind, at a time when such a thing was almost unique among the savans. His writings are very scattered, and will probably not be collected; there are too many of them which are only luxuriant exhibitions of his excessive readiness in mathematical language, but there are many from which a most valuable selection might be made.

M. Francisque Michel has just sent to press the earlier portions of a work on the Population, Language, Manners, and Literature of the Basque Country. Besides a great deal that is new and curious respecting the origin of the Basque people, M. Michel's work will, we understand, comprise a complete *Ministère* of the Basque Border. MM. Firmin Didot Frères are the publishers. As an instance of the appreciation by the French Government of the labours of literary men, we may mention that, as some recompense for the labour bestowed by M. Michel on a recent work of his—*A History of Navarre during the Thirteenth Century*—the Minister of Public Instruction has just forwarded to him the sum of 3,000 francs, accompanied by a letter expressive of his sense of the value of M. Michel's volume.

A new map of the Two Sicilies, says a Naples Correspondent, has just been published under the patronage of Signor Bianchini, Director of the Interior, specifying by analogous designs the productions of each province. This plan has already been introduced in various European States, and is highly useful to commerce. I must not omit to say that the idea was brought to Naples by Cav. Carlo Merlo, who, on his return from Paris last November, presented to Signor Bianchini a similar map of the productions of France. At the same time he presented a plan of the suspension bridge on scaffolding used in France in building houses, and which will now, I believe, be introduced into Naples, where from the great height of the houses it will prove of the highest advantage.

The archaeological excavations near the village of Alexandropol, in the government of Ekaterinawsk, begun about five years ago, have lately been crowned with brilliant success. In the highest of the tomb-hills, rising to a height of almost eighty feet, and the laying open of which has taken a considerable time, the tombs, it is asserted, of the Scythian Kings have been discovered. They are filled with all sorts of gold ornaments; silver, gold, bronze, iron, and clay vessels; and large quantities of horses' bones. A travelling car, also found in this grave, was much damaged; but, with this sole exception, all the objects were entirely well preserved, which is really astonishing considering the time that has passed over this hill since its erection in the most remote antiquity.

On Saturday, Monday, and Tuesday last the numerous copyrights of the late Mr. Colburn were disposed of by Messrs. Southgate & Barrett, of Fleet Street. The following are the principal lots, with date of publication and price:—

By Lady Charlotte Bury—*Love*, 3 vols., 1837, 25 guineas; *The Divorced*, 3 vols., 1837, 46 guineas.

By Mrs. Holland—*The Unloved One*, 1844, 27 guineas; By the Author of "Oliver Cromwell"—*Marmaduke Wyll*, 1843, 80 guineas.

By Miss Fardoe—*The Romance of the Harlem*, 1830, 42s.; By Mrs. E. C. Hall—*Cupid's Horse*, 3 vols., 1837, 73s. 10s.; By L. E. L. (Miss Landon)—*Edith Churchill*, 3 vols., 1837, 62 guineas; Lady Anne Cranford, 1842, 37 guineas.

By Mrs. Trollope—*The Widow Married*, 11 steel plates, 1840, 83 guineas; *Charles Chesterfield*, 10 plates, 1841, 52 guineas; *Jessie Phillips*, plates by Phil., 1843, 50 guineas; *Hargrave*, 8 vols., 1842, 48 guineas; *The Barnabys in America*, 9 steel plates, 1843, 50 guineas; *Young Love*, 3 vols., 1844, 50 guineas; *The Attractive Man*, 1845, 51 guineas; *The Roberts on their Travels*, 1846, 41 guineas; *Father Eustace: a Tale of the Jesuits*, 1846, 55 guineas; *The Three Cousins*, 1847, 46 guineas; *Town and Country*, 3 vols., 1847, 42 guineas; *The Young Countess*, 1848, 60 guineas;

*The Lottery of Marriage*, 1849, 60 guineas; *Petticoat Government*, 1850, 71 guineas; *Second Love*, 3 vols., 1851, 68 guineas.

By R. Plummer Ward (Author of "Tremaine")—*Pictures of the World*, 2 vols., 1838, 16 guineas.

Edited by W. H. Maxwell—*Peninsular Sketches: or, Lights and Shades in the Life of a Gentleman on Half-Pay*, 2 vols., 1845, 30 guineas.

Lord Londonderry's Story of the Peninsular War, with continuation by Gleig; 6 steel plates and maps, 1844, 24 guineas.

Lord Lindsay's Letters on the Holy Land, with the stereotyped plates, 1838, 32 guineas.

Broderip's (W. J.) *Zoological Recreations*, 1 vol., 1847, 16 guineas.

*The History of a Flirt: a Novel*, 3 vols., 1842, 62 guineas.

*The Manoeuvring Mother*, by the same Author, 1842, 52 guineas.

By the Countess of Blessington—*The Lottery of Life*, 3 vols., 1842, 30 guineas.

By the Author of "Cousin Geoffrey"—*The Matchmaker*, 3 vols., 1841, 30 guineas.

By T. J. Serie—*The Players*, and *Joan of Arc*, each in 3 vols., 1841—7, 12 guineas.

By Horace Smith—*The New Forest*, 3 vols., 1839, 10 guineas; *Jane Lomas*, 3 vols., 1837, 33 guineas; *The Moneyed Man*, 8 vols., 1841, 47 guineas; *Love and Merit*, 3 vols., 1845, 22 guineas; *Reuben Apsley*, 3 vols., 1827, 18 guineas.

*Violet; or, the Dances*, 2 vols., 1836, 98 guineas; By Mrs. Gore—*Romance of Real Life*, 8 vols., 1839, 30 guineas; *Diary of a Désennuyée*, 2 vols., 1836, 12 guineas.

*Memoirs of a Peeres*, 3 vols., 1837, 42 guineas; *Stokehill Place*, 3 vols., 1837, 58 guineas; *The Man of Fortune*, 3 vols., 1841, 35 guineas; *Fascination*, 3 vols., 1842, 84 guineas; *The Banker's Wife*, 2 vols., 1843, 59 guineas.

*Men of Capital*, 3 vols., 1846, 42 guineas; *Temptation and Attonement*, 3 vols., 1847, 20 guineas; *The Diamond and Pearl*, 3 vols., 1848, 18 guineas; *Greenville*, 3 vols., 1841, 28 guineas; *Preferment*, 3 vols., 1839, 37 guineas; *The Courtier of Charles the Second*, 3 vols., 1839, 31 guineas; *Peers and Parvenses*, 3 vols., 1840, 44 guineas; *The Woman of the World*, 3 vols., 1839, 34 guineas; *The Rishragh*, 3 vols., 1843, 15 guineas; *The Royal Favourite*, 3 vols., 1846, 19 guineas; *Mary Raymond*, 3 vols., 1837, 31 guineas.

*Burke's Anecdotes of the Aristocracy*, 1849, 47 guineas. Tom Bowling, by Capt. Chamier, R.N., 1841, 101 guineas.

*Outward Bound*, by the Author of "Bastida the Reeler", 1838, 110 guineas.

Sir Henry Morgan, by the same Author, 1842, 61 guineas. *Parsons and Widows*, by the Author of "Peter Prigins", 1841, 37 guineas.

*Precepts and Practice*, by Theodor Hook, 4 steel plates, 1840, 61 guineas.

*Fathers and Sons*, by the same Author, 3 steel plates, 1841, 90 guineas.

*The Pic-Nic Papers, a Series of Tales and Sketches* (plates by George Cruikshank), edited by Charles Dickens, with Contributions by the Editor and many Celebrated Writers, 3 vols., 1841 (Ward & Lock), 200 guineas. These were the Papers contributed for the benefit of Mrs. Macrone and family, and for which Mr. Colburn gave 500*l*.

*The Diary and Letters of Madame D'Arbaly*, edited by her Niece, 7 vols., portraits, &c., 1842—6, 82 guineas. (Bohn.)

*The Original Manuscript of the above*. Those portions (amounting to 2 vols. out of the 7) in which no omissions were made have not been preserved; but the manuscript here offered—larger in quantity than the entire published work, and carrying the Diary beyond the date at which the published work closes—contains all it was thought advisable to print (solely, however, on the ground of its too great length) on the first appearance of the book, with the originals of the correspondence of Mrs. Thrale, the Misses Burney, Dr. Burney, Mr. Crisp, &c., 30 guineas. (Toovey.)

*The Juvenile Diary of Fanny Burney*. A transcribed copy prepared for the press; and, also, the Original Manuscript from which the copy was made, all in the Miss Burney's hand, as written in private memorandum books. 109 guineas. (Toovey.)—"This is that portion of the Diary, begun in 1768, and ending where the published journal begins, which the editor of the latter justly described as of not inferior interest to the rest, though of a more personal kind, and which it was therefore thought expedient to withhold from publication until the recognition awarded to the later Diary should justify its being given to the world. It contains Miss Burney's first impressions of her celebrated friends of later life."—(Extract from Catalogue.)

Works by John Poole, Author of "Paul Pry"—*The Comic Sketch-Book*, 2 vols., 1835, 16 guineas; *Little Pedlington*, 2 vols., 1839, 41 guineas; *Phineas Quiddy*, 3 vols., steel plates by Phil., 1842, 40 guineas; *The Comic Miscellany*, 1 vol., 1844, 10 guineas.

By the Rev. Dr. Croly—*Tales of the Great St. Bernard*, 3 vols., 1835, 40 guineas; *Marston*, 5 vols., 1846, 90 guineas.

Edited by the Rev. G. R. Gleig—*The Only Daughter*, 3 vols., 1838, 40 guineas; and *Self Devotion*, 3 vols., 1842, 51 guineas. (This was the last of the novels.)

By Elliot Warburton—*The Crescent and the Cross*, 1 vol., 1845, with the stereotype plates and remaining stock, 45*l*. (Hurst & Blackett.)

*Reynolds's Diary and Correspondence*, edited, with additions from the original manuscript, new notes, and preface. By John Forster, Esq., 4 vols., post 8vo., portraits and ample index, 1857. Originally published in 2 vols. 4to., in 1818, but when the edition of 1849 appeared, the additional term of extension under the New Copyright Act was secured, and so many insertions of new matter from the original manuscripts have been made, that these two last editions may be considered as substantially a new copyright. 110*l*. for the copyrights (having only two years and a half to run), and 35*l*. for the stock. (Bohn.)

*The Diary and Correspondence of Samuel Pepys*, with Life and Notes, by Lord Braybrooke, Fifth Edition, 4 vols., the Copyright and Stock.—"In this edition are restored

passages suppressed in the original edition—among the most characteristic of the writer—amounting in quantity to not less than a fourth of the entire work. Portraits and Illustrations. The date of the original publication of "Pepys" was 1825, but when the fourth edition was published, in 1848, the additional terms of extension under the New Copyright Act were secured. Independently of this, the large access of perfectly new and unpublished matter in this edition constituted substantially an entirely new copyright. 310*l*. for the copyright and 500*l*. for the stock. (Bohn.)

*Miss Strickland's Lives of the Queens of England*, fourth edition, with portraits of every Queen, 8 vols., the copyright, with the stereotype, steel plates, and stock.—"The purchaser to have the option, to be exercised within seven days, of taking the benefit of the clause in the agreements providing for an abridgment of the work, by Miss Strickland, for the use of schools, &c. This is now ready for press; the price to be settled by reference, Mr. Charles Dickens having been named as umpire."—£5,000 for the copyright, and 215*l*. for the stock. (Kent.) The original copyright, we believe, cost Mr. Colburn 8,000*l*. The whole work is now stereotyped.

The last lot was the series of works by Sir Bernard Burke—*The Dictionary of the Peerage and Baronetage*, *The Dictionary of the Landed Gentry*, and *The Extinct Peerage*—which were bought in at 4,000*l*. and the stock at put at 10,000*l*.

The 127 copyrights produced the sum of 14,170*l*.; the stock, 5,316*l*.; making a total of 19,486*l*.

ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS, Trafalgar Square.—THE EXHIBITION OF THE ROYAL ACADEMY IS NOW OPEN.—Admission (from Eight o'clock) 2*d*. Half-Mill East, 3*d*. JOHN PRESCOTT KNIGHT, R.A. Sec.

SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE FIFTY-THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION IS NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East (close to Trafalgar Square), from Nine till Six.—Admission, 1*d*. Catalogue, 6*d*. JOSEPH J. JELKINS, Secretary.

THE NEW SOCIETY OF PAINTERS IN WATER COLOURS.—THE TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF this Society is NOW OPEN, at their Gallery, 5, Pall Mall East, near James's Palace, daily, from Nine till Six.—Admission, 1*d*. Season Tickets, 5*s*. each. JAMES FAHEY, Sec.

FRENCH EXHIBITION.—THE FOURTH ANNUAL EXHIBITION of Pictures by Modern Artists of the FRENCH SCHOOL, is OPEN to the public, at the French Gallery, 191, Pall Mall opposite the Opera Comique.—Admission, 1*d*. Catalogue, 6*d*. each. Open from Nine to Six daily.

R. PRODSHAM, Secretary.

EXHIBITION.—Messrs. DICKINSON'S COLLECTION of PORTRAITS OF DISTINGUISHED PERSONS has been considerably added to by many interesting Pictures, executed in Oil, and in Water Colour. The Exhibition is open daily from Ten to Six.—Admission, 1*d*.—114, New Bond Street.

MDLLE. ROSA BONHEUR's great Picture of the HORSE FAIR.—Messrs. P. & D. COLNAGHI & CO. beg to announce that the above Picture is NOW ON VIEW, from Nine to Six, at the GERMAN GALLERY, 145, New Bond Street, for a limited period. Admission, 1*d*.

Admission One Shilling.

RUSSIAN LIFE AND SCENERY. New Diorama, at Three and Eight o'clock, at the Old Price. The Diorama, at Three and Six p.m.—Admission to the whole Building, 1*d*.

MR. ALBERT SMITH'S MONT BLANC, BADEN, UP THE RHINE, and PARIS is NOW OPEN EVERY EVENING (except Saturdays), at Eight o'clock.—Stalls, 3*s*.; Arcs, 2*s*.; Balcony, 1*s*.; Street, at the Box-office, 6*d*.—Refreshments, 6*d*.; Floodily, every day between Eleven and Four, without any extra charge.—The Morning Representations take place every Tuesday and Saturday, at Three o'clock.

MR. W. S. WOODIN'S ODDITIES, with new Costumes, and various Novelties, vocal and dramatic, every Evening (Saturdays excepted), at Eight o'clock.—Performances every Saturday and Three Private Boxes, 5*s*.; Stalls, 3*s*.; Balcony, 1*s*.; without extra charge, at the Box-office, POLYGRAPHIC HALL, King William Street, Charing Cross. Tickets may be had at the principal Music-sellers.

DR. KAHN'S MUSEUM, 4, Coventry Street, Leicester Square. Programme: Lectures by Dr. Kahn, daily at Three o'clock, on highly interesting and instructive topics, and by Dr. Sarsen, F.R.S. F.E.S., as follows:—At halfpast eight, on the Phenomena, Curiousities, and Philosophy of the Sense of Sight; at Four, the Great Tobacco Controversy; at halfpast seven the Feet we wear, its Uses, Preparation, Adulteration, and Digestion. The Museum contains 1,000 Models and Preparations, and is wholly unrivalled in the world. Open daily for Gentlemen only, from Ten till Ten. Admission, 1*d*. Catalogue, containing Dr. Kahn's Lectures, gratis to Visitors.

THE ROYAL POLYTECHNIC IS OPEN during the WHITSUN HOLIDAYS from Twelve to Five and Seven to Ten, having been redecorated and carpeted.—Admission to the whole, 2*d*.; Children, 1*d*.; Tea and Refreshments, 6*d*.; Entrance to the very celebrated Tyrolean vocalist and composer, HER VEIT KAHN, who will appear in his grand costume and accompany himself on that exquisite instrument, the Clavier.—Last two weeks of the unrivalled HUNGARIAN BAND. Conducted by HENRY KALOOS, daily, at Three and halfpast Eight.—New and improved LECTURE, written by J. J. GREGG, Esq., on DISSEMINATING VIEWS and PANORAMAS, illustrating CHINA and the LOCALITIES of the PRESENT WAR, showing Canton, Hong Kong, Shanghai, Granite Batteries, Amoy War Junks, Grand Feast of Lanterns, Canton, &c. &c., with interesting PICTURE on the MANNERS and CUSTOMS of the CHINESE, by E. A. Sarsen, Esq., and opening of a new CHINESE MUSEUM, by Messrs. Huxley, Pennington, and St. John, Esq., Series of Views, illustrating EGYPT in the TIME of the PHARAOHS.—Last Four Weeks of the inimitable Ventriquoism Extraordinary, Mr. JAMES, Mortimer, at a quarter to Five, at Eight, at Ten o'clock.—Stereoscopic Eighty new Comoramas and life-like Stereoscopes.—The Diver and Diving Bell; more than 3,000 Models and Works of Art; Electrical Experiments; Machinery always in Motion; Montanari's Art Wax-work, &c. &c.

ASTRONOMY, V.P., in the Greenwell communicated. Variable stars, discovery of the forty-lating her at Oxford Pogson, MS. observations. 1857. April 1.

Intelligence on the share his—'Observe'—Passage observed Comet, Jacob's lites of the Pay in the Cor Simmus, Refract Observations, Horiz with, i Robert Revolv Voyag Prof. C land.—Astron April astron obscure double the pr on Ma practi Wrote munic of the Frede Febr were aperu nes, duck bou black On t (C) a ph app ring shac seen (B) mor and

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## SCIENTIFIC

## SOCIETIES.

**ASTRONOMICAL.**—April 8.—Rev. Baden Powell, V.P., in the chair.—'Results of the Observations of Small Planets made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the month of March, 1857,' communicated by the Astronomer Royal.—'On a Variable Star,' by the Astronomer Royal.—'Discovery of another Small Planet.' Another member, the forty-third, of the group of small planets circulating between Mars and Jupiter was discovered at Oxford, on the 15th of April, by Mr. Norman Pogson, in comparing with the heavens one of his M.S. charts. The following are Mr. Pogson's first observations:—

1857.	G.M.T.	App. R.A.	App. N.P.D.
	h m s	h m s	
April 15.	13 34 14	13 30 19.96	105 43 2.5
	13 37 12	30 18.98	42 56.7
	15 24 31	30 15.30	42 36.3

Intelligence was circulated throughout the country on the two following days. Mr. Pogson has no one to share his honours with him on the present occasion.—'Observations of Comet I., 1857 (D'Arrest's).—'Passage of D'Arrest's Comet over a Fixed Star,' observed by R. Hodgson, Esq.—'Observations of Comet II., 1857 (Bruhns's).—'Letters of Capt. Jacob to Mr. Grant.—'Observations of the Satellites of Uranus,' by W. Lassell, Esq.—'Note to the Paper on Optical Phenomena in Occultations in the Preceding Number,' by Prof. Powell.—'On the Correction of Sextant Observations,' by W. H. Simms, Esq.—'On the Value of the Constant of Refraction, as determined from Zenith-Distance Observations of Stars near the North and South Horizon, made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the years from 1836 to 1854,' by the Rev. Robert Main, M.A.—'Experiences with a Free-Revolver Stand for a Telescope at Sea, during a Voyage to Tenerife in the Summer of 1856,' by Prof. C. P. Smyth, Astronomer Royal for Scotland.—'Extract from a Letter received by the Astronomer Royal from Mr. Otto Struve, dated April 7.' 'Has it been remarked by English astronomers that, this spring, the breadth of the obscure ring of Saturn was, on the following ansa, double (or at least one and six-tenths) of that on the preceding ansa? This feature was so striking on March 20, that it could be seen even by unpractised observers on the first glance.'—Lord Wrottesley has favoured the Society with a communication of some observations of the appearance of the planet Saturn, made by his assistant, Mr. Frederic Morton, in the months of January and February last. Powers ranging from 320 to 600 were applied to the 11-feet equatorial of 7½-inches aperture. On January 20, the fine mark on the outer ring (A) was seen defined with great sharpness, and again by glimpses on the 29th. The dusky ring (C) was generally observed to be bounded by a sharply-defined inner edge, with a black sky between it and the ball of the planet. On these occasions the common boundary between (C) and the middle ring (B) was never well marked, a phenomenon which Mr. Morton attributes to the apparent overlapping of the outer edge of the dusky ring on the inner edge of the middle ring. The shading of the inner portion of the ring (B) was seen to extend from the ring (C) to the middle of (B). Other observers have, however, noticed a more luminous streak between the shading on (B) and the outer edge of the dusky ring.

**GEOLOGICAL.**—May 6.—Col. Portlock, R.E., President, in the chair.—Lieut.-Gen. J. Briggs, Capt. G. H. Saxton, and A. R. Abbott, Esq., were elected Fellows; and Prof. Goepfert, of Breslau, was elected a Foreign Member.—'The Silurian Rocks and Fossils of Norway,' described by M. Theodor Kjerulf, and those of the Baltic Provinces of Russia, by Prof. Schmidt, compared with their British Equivalents, by Sir R. I. Murchison.

**SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.**—May 21.—E. Hawkins, Esq., V.P., in the chair.—M. G. R. Wright was elected a Fellow. Mr. O. Morgan exhibited three Pedometers of the 17th century, and an

engraved amulet, on the use of which he read some remarks.—Mr. Fairholt exhibited a knife, a key, and a pair of iron shears, all of which he ascribed to the Norman period.—Mr. Henry Norman exhibited examples of Roman and Mediaeval pottery found in the City.—Some beautiful drawings of Frankish remains were contributed by Mr. E. Wilmer.—Mr. Frauks exhibited several Anglo-Saxon weapons, among which was a sword-blade inlaid with runes.—The Abbé Cochet contributed an account of further researches in the Norman cemetery of Bouteilles, of which a translation by Mr. Wylie was read to the meeting.

**ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE.**—May 20.—The Bishop of St. David's, President, in the chair.—The Bishop of St. David's read a paper 'On the alleged Connexion between the Early History of Greece and Assyria,' in which he examined at considerable length the system for connecting the early periods of these two countries, lately put forth by Christ von Jacob Kruger, in his 'Geschichte der Assyrier und Iranier.'

**NUMISMATIC.**—May 21.—W. S. W. Vaux, Esq., President, in the chair.—Mr. Roach Smith forwarded an impression of a new British coin, the property of Mr. H. Wickham. It bore on the obverse the inscription, COM. P. within a wreath, and on the reverse a horseman within a border of amulets inclosing pellets, and below, a starlike ornament. The weight was 73½ grains.—Mr. Pisu exhibited the medal struck to commemorate the opening of St. George's Hall, Liverpool, and read a letter from Mr. Mayer descriptive of it.—Mr. Williams exhibited three denari, dug up in a garden at Redhill.—Mr. Whitbourn exhibited a new British gold coin, bearing the inscription, EPATIKV or EPATIKOS, and doubtless of the same sovereign as the coins inscribed EPAT (one of which he also exhibited), first found on Farley Heath. Mr. Whitbourn also exhibited rare coins of the Saxon and English periods.—Mr. Evans read a paper on the coin of Epaticus above mentioned, and showed strong reason for concluding that this prince was son of Tasciovanus, and brother of Cunobelinus, and that at the death of the former a partition of the kingdom took place between the two brothers, by which Epaticus became ruler of the Segontiaci.—Dr. Loewe read a paper 'On an early Gold Denar, bearing the date A.H. 83, and struck by the Khaleefah 'Abd El-Melek Ibn Marwan.'

**BRITISH ARCHEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.**—May 13.—Dr. John Lee, V.P., in the chair.—The Earl of Scarborough, Rev. R. H. Poole, and Mrs. Bellamy were elected Associates.—Mr. W. Calder Marshall exhibited impressions from a fine Celtic gold coin, found a short time since at Erith, in Kent, and now in the possession of Mr. Flaxman Spurrell, of Bexley Heath.—Mr. C. Ainslie produced two gold coins, found at Chinkford, in Essex. One like to Mr. Marshall's exhibition, but with a bull's head beneath the horse; the other a well-known coin of Cynobeline.—Mr. Gibbs exhibited the centre of an oak mantel-tree of the time of James or Charles the First. It is 3 feet 5 inches long and 13 inches wide. On it are carved the royal arms, with lion-and-unicorn supporters in the centre, whilst at the sides are a bearded man in a long doublet buttoned down the front, and a female in farthingale, with arms a-kimbo—representations usually denominated Jack and Jill, man and maid servants.—Mr. Ainslie exhibited a rapier of the time of Charles the First, the steel pommel and guard of which were richly decorated with three-quarter busts of a female and cupids. This sword was exhumed in Bloody Lane, near Louth, in Lincolnshire, of which place there is a tradition relating to a rencontre between Cromwell and the Royalists about 1643.—Mr. Wills exhibited a very extensive collection of keys, Roman and Mediaeval, many of which were of great rarity and curiosity.—Mr. Ainslie also exhibited some fine specimens of keys, found in the Thames when excavating for the New Palace at Westminster. The earliest was of the close of the thirteenth century.—Mr. Forman exhibited a remarkable collection of gold and silver antiquities. Some

were Celtic; some obtained from Ireland, others in Gaul; and several were Danish. They were referred for particular examination and description, as being of the greatest interest.—Mr. Syer Cuming read a paper 'On Cromwellian Relics,' which gave rise to a long and curious discussion, in the course of which Mr. Wilkinson, late M.P. for Lambeth, stated himself to be the possessor of the head of the Protector, and gave a history of the way in which it came into his possession. Dr. Lee, Mr. Solly, Dr. Beattie, Mr. Planché, and others, also detailed particulars regarding Cromwellian relics,—and many medals of Oliver Cromwell were exhibited. The Chairman alluded to the fine Cromwell portraits to be seen at the Chequers, in Buckinghamshire, the property of Lady Frankland Russell, where also Mr. Pettigrew said he had seen the original mask taken from the Protector's face after death, and from which the celebrated bust by Bernini, at Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, was executed.

**STATISTICAL.**—May 19.—C. Babbage, Esq., in the chair.—The Rev. John Clay, B.D., Lieut. Col. J. P. Kennedy, and C. Walford, Esq., were elected Fellows.—Mr. Hendrika read a paper 'On the Land-Tax Statistics of England, and on the Political Arithmetic of the early period of its Settlement.'

**LINNEAN.**—May 5.—Prof. Bell, President, in the chair.—G. D. Pollock, Esq., was elected a Fellow; and Prof. Van der Hoeven and Melissar Foreign Members. The following papers were read:—a memoir 'On Brachynema, and Phoxanthus, two new genera of Brazilian Plants,' by G. Bentham, Esq.—'On the Classification of warm-blooded Vertebrata,' by Dr. McDonald.—'On some New Fungi,' by the Rev. M. J. Berkeley.—'Note on some Suprasporiferous Ferns,' by Mr. T. Moore.

**ENTOMOLOGICAL.**—April 6.—J. E. Gray, Esq., in the chair.—A paper was read by Mr. Newman 'On the Cause of the Scutellar Depression on the Elytra of some of the Individuals of Certain Species of Ground Beetles, especially those of the genus Agonum.'—Mr. Wollaston read 'A Notice of a Peculiarity in the Eyes of the Beetles of the genus Trixagus (Throscus, Latr.).'—A paper, by Mr. Tapscott, was read 'On Acanthi and Paoli found in Drawers and Boxes,'—also 'On a Black Species of Paocidae found in the Barbadoes Nut.'—Mr. F. Smith read some notes in reply to Mr. Janssen's observations on the nomenclature of a new British species of Bledius.—Mr. Fortune exhibited two Chinese pastiles, half a yard long, made of the sawings of Juniper and Pine wood, used for the purpose of driving mosquitoes from apartments; also some rolls of the same material used for the same purpose. Likewise some torches formed of the stems and leaves of *Artemisia indica*, used by the Chinese when taking honey from hives; one of these torches being lighted and waved about by an attendant, the smoke stupefying the bees, which fly around without stinging the operators, although they are naked to the waist.

**CHEMICAL.**—May 18.—Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., President, in the chair.—Mr. G. B. Buckton read a paper 'On some Products of the Oxidation of Chinese Wax.'

**SOCIETY OF ARTS.**—May 27.—W. Fairbairn, Esq., in the chair.—The following gentlemen were elected Members:—Messrs. J. Alger, H. H. Bird, C. Botten, jun., W. Clarke, J. Feiden, G. Gamble, R. Ingham, C. T. Masterman, C. P. B. Shelley, J. B. Smith, M.P., R. P. Spies, Andrew Wallis, D. Watney, jun., J. Watts, Ph.D., J. F. Winfield, T. Wood.—The paper read was 'On some Combinations and Phenomena that occur among the Elements engaged in the Manufacture of Iron, and in the Conversion of Iron into Steel,' by Mr. Christopher Binks.

**ROYAL INSTITUTION.**—May 22.—The Duke of Northumberland, K.G., President, in the chair.—Edward Vivian, Esq., read a paper 'On Meteorology, with Observations and Sketches taken during a Balloon Ascent.'

## MEETINGS FOR THE ENSUING WEEK.

- Mon.** British Architects, 8.  
 — Entomological, 8.  
 — Royal Institution, 2.—General Monthly Meeting.
- Tues.** Luncheon, 8.—On the Geographical Distribution of Birds, by Mr. Selater.—On the Organs formerly described by him on the Hylæus and Wings of Insects, and on a new Structure in the Antennæ, by Dr. Hicks.—On the Aculeate Hymenoptera of Borneo, by Mr. Smith.
- Wed.** Royal Institution, 2.—On Italian Literature—the Scientists; Marini; Galileo, by Dr. Lacaita.
- Thurs.** Horticultural, 2.—Garden Exhibition.  
 — Geological, 2.—On the Species of Elephants occurring Fossil in Great Britain, by Dr. Falconer.
- Thurs.** Horticultural, 2.—Garden Exhibition.  
 — Zoological, 2.—General.  
 — Chemical, 4.—On the Recent Progress of Electro-Chemistry, by Dr. Miller.  
 — Philological, 8.  
 — Photographic, 8.  
 — Royal Institution, 3.—On Sound, and some associated Phenomena, by Prof. Tyndall.
- Fri.** Archaeological Institute, 4.  
 — Royal Institution, 3.—On M. Liassajoux's Acoustic Experiments, by Prof. Tyndall.
- Sat.** Institute of Actuaries, 3.—Annual General Meeting.  
 — Asiatic, 2.  
 — Royal Institution, 3.—On the Relations of Chemistry to Graphic and Plastic Art, by Prof. Frankland.

## FINE ARTS

*Scenes in Ethiopia.* By John Martin Bernatz, Artist to the British Mission to the Court of Shoa, with Descriptions of the Plates and Extracts of a Journal. (Longman & Co.)

Or Shoa and of the Highlands of Ethiopia we have read much, if not enough, in the well-known volumes of Harris. We now behold in the beautiful plates of M. Bernatz the scenery of which we have read, and which imagination had pictured in colours hardly so bright it would appear as the reality.

It will be remembered that Captain (afterwards Major Sir William) Harris's Mission left India on the 27th of April 1841, and reaching Aden on the 6th of May, sailed for Tadjurra, on the opposite African coast, ten days afterwards. On the 17th of May Captain Harris visited the Sultan of Tadjurra, but it was not until the 1st of June that he was enabled to collect the 100 camels necessary for the transport of his baggage onward to Shoa. Even then he was compelled to leave the gifts for the King of Shoa, and twenty-two persons attached to the Mission, behind at Tadjurra. Of this party were M. Bernatz and the physician, whose office truly was a complete sinecure, his services never having been even once required, "as the natives enjoy excellent health." This salubrity is the best, indeed the only thing of which Tadjurra can boast; for it has but one well of drinkable water, is parched by a heat which often rises to 116° in the shade, and exists and flourishes only by the execrable slave-trade. On the 4th of September M. Bernatz and all his party but the interpreter, four servants and two German Missionaries, were recalled to Aden, where they remained till the 25th of October, when they returned to Tadjurra, Captain Harris having procured camels and an escort for their journey to Ankobar. Meantime, of the four servants who remained at Tadjurra, three were murdered by a single assassin, who speared them while asleep. With this unpleasant warning of what might be expected in their onward march, the remainder of the Mission left Tadjurra for Shoa on the 24th of November, with 135 camels, having been detained a month by the difficulty of procuring those useful animals as well as by the hostile aspect of the surrounding tribes. At the gloomy Pass of Isa, the Basin of Falsehood, the frontier of Gobad, the Valley of Killal, and other spots whose names seem indicative of evil, the travellers had well-nigh found their final halting-place. One chief employed himself two whole days in exhorting the escort to murder those they were engaged to protect; and with a perseverance worthy of a better cause, he continued his appeal, without suffering his audience to withdraw in spite of the

effluvia from a camel which had died close by during the debate, and the intolerable rays of a tropical African sun, unintercepted by a single tree or shrub. Yet these men, so earnest for the blood of strangers, are said to be kind and compassionate to those of their own tribe.

At length, after a tedious journey of three months—after abundance of peril and corresponding deficiency of rest and food—M. Bernatz reached the capital of Shoa. The views of this picturesque city, perched 8,000 feet above the sea and 5,000 above the adjacent plain, are among the most beautiful in this attractive volume. That of the Bahr Assal, or Salt Lake,—a cavity 12 miles long, 4 broad, and depressed 600 feet below the sea—is also admirable. This curious lake is gradually drying up; and a century or two hence a vast expanse of glittering crystals, some feet in thickness, will probably mark its site.

There are also some exquisite views of the River Hawash and its tributaries. It flows, 400 miles from its source, to the town of Aussa, half way between Tadjurra and Ankobar, where it enters a great lake. M. Bernatz is of opinion that this stream might be made available for navigation. He says:—

"This river is said to have its source in a large swamp in the unknown country of the Gallas, among the Sudda, Betsha, Vorber, and Matsha tribes, and to be fed by many tributary streams that flow out of the Highlands of Shoa and Ifat. It takes its silent course, surrounded with thick woods, through the country of the Adaiels, and flows into the lakes of Aussa, from which its further course cannot be traced. Our caravan crossed this river in the dry season, when the water was very low. We forded it, in a slanting direction, at one of the broadest places, where it was about a hundred paces wide. The greatest depth of the muddy brown water was then not above three feet; and we saw, here and there, single pieces of rock rising out of the loamy bottom. The height of the steep banks was between twenty and thirty feet. Notwithstanding its shallowness at this season, I have no doubt it might become of much importance to commerce, it being four hundred miles long from its source to Aussa, and probably navigable in the rainy season."

We do not propose to dwell upon the doings or discoveries of the Mission in Shoa, as M. Bernatz's text is brief, and merely explanatory of the plates, and as, in fact, the volume before us is simply the artist's supplement of Harris's work. It will be sufficient, therefore, to add, that this volume deserves a place in the drawing-room, and must be admitted into every library which aims at completeness in the department of African discovery.

**FINE-ART GOSPEL.**—Cardinal Wiseman last week lectured to an audience of priests and academicians, at the Marylebone Institution, 'On the Manner of Collecting and Arranging a National Gallery of Paintings.' Would the hearers had been many! Dr. Wiseman thought we should not follow the example of the Venice, Bologna, or Florence Galleries in the selection of our pictures. In these Italian cities were local schools of Art, which the ruling powers fostered and preserved. We have no old schools, local or national. We should be eclectic—choosing the best from all schools and countries. The same rules should guide our selection of pictures as would guide us in forming a scientific museum or a library. There should be a specimen of every master, even of those masters who might be indifferent painters, but who have founded, modified, or influenced a school. Our selections seemed, from the answers given before the Committee of 1853, to have been made on no fixed principle or system. Persons who made a collection for the nation should understand that a historical series was wanted—one characteristic

specimen of each master, in good preservation, not repaired or patched, and of undoubted genuineness. Why multiply Domenichinos, Carraccis, and Paul Veroneses as we were doing now? Dr. Wiseman strongly deplored the recent purchase of the Pisani Veronese. We are rich enough in Paul. We are bankrupt in Da Vinci—and in many other masters. In all this we heartily concur.

Monday next closes the period within which English sculptors can send in models for the great monument to the Duke of Wellington. Foreign artists are allowed to send in up to June 25. The models will be shown to the public early in July.

Some Correspondent at Manchester or elsewhere may be able to answer this query:—

"Easton, near Woodbridge, May 25.

"Can you or any of your Correspondents inform me whether the portrait in the Manchester Exhibition, said to be Catherine Parr, by Holbein, is the portrait lately in the possession of Mr. Dawson Turner, and engraved in 'Lodge's Gallery of Portraits'? I have an undoubted portrait of Catherine Parr, by Holbein, which the following inscription over it will show, viz., 'I Catherina, Angl. Regina.' The portrait is a half-length on panel, looking to the right in a black dress and a tissue head-dress and cape. At the bottom of the cape in front an old English 4 + 8 is suspended under a red rose. Walpole says, in his 'Anecdotes of Painters,' 'At Amsterdam, in the Warmoes Street, was a fine picture of a Queen of England in silver tissue.' Possibly this may be the one alluded to and brought over from thence to Suffolk. I remain, &c.,

"JAS. CLARKE."

The collection of modern pictures, and drawings, and works of mediæval and modern Art belonging to Leopold Redpath was, on Saturday last, brought to the hammer by Messrs. Christie & Manson. Among the carvings in ivory we remarked, a group of Henry the Fourth, with Sully kneeling before him, on ebony pedestal, 41l.—the Leda, by Pradier, in ivory, with drapery of bronze, gilt necklace, and armlets set with turquoises, the swan of oxidized silver, on plinth of bronze and green marble, 380l. Among bronzes were Æneas carrying Anchises from Troy, twenty-one inches high, 38l.—Pætus and Arria, 36l. 10s.—Venus and Cupid and two allegorical figures, 35l. 10s. In marble were the Apollo Belvidere, a bust the size of the original, 43l.—a bust of Ajax, in helmet, from the antique, 61l.—a beautiful bust of a Bacchante, crowned with ivy leaves and berries, 41l.—a pair of statues of children, after Boucher, on fluted plinths, 36l. Among drawings we noticed: by W. Hunt, a fruit-piece, 77 guineas,—a Bird's Nest and Apple Blossom, 37 guineas,—'A Frosty Morning,' 47 guineas,—'The Usurper,' 58 guineas,—by Frederick Taylor, 'A Hawking Party,' 41 guineas,—'Marauding Troopers,' a skirmish, 125 guineas,—by E. Duncan, 'View of Spithead,' with part of the Baltic fleet at anchor, from Ryde Sands, 74 guineas,—by F. Goodall, A.R.A., 'The Departure of the Conscrip,' 178 guineas,—by Copley Fielding, 'A Storm and Shipwreck off Scarborough,' with the companion, 89 guineas,—'A Storm off a Rocky Coast,' 74 guineas,—by T. M. Richardson, 'Pozzuoli, near Naples,' and the companion picture, 'A View of Naples,' 185 guineas,—by J. F. Lewis, 'The Greeting in the Desert,' 152 guineas,—by Margaret Gillies, 'Contemplation,' 50 guineas,—L. Haghe, 1849, 'Interior of Herenthal Church' and 'The Well of Quintin Matsys before the Tower of Antwerp Cathedral,' 75 guineas. Among pictures were examples by Carl Sohn, 1834, 'The Two Leonoras,' (engraved,) 171 guineas,—by O'Connor, Waterfall and Rocky Ravine in the Dargle, 82 guineas,—by T. S. Cooper, A.R.A., 'Morning,' and 'Evening,' views in Wales, 303 guineas,—by E. W. Cooke, R.A., 'Dutch Pincks off Katwyk,' 140 guineas,—by F. C. Koekoek, 'View in Saxon Switzerland,' 152 guineas, also a Harbour Scene, 172 guineas,—by G. Sant, 'Sweet Anne Page,' 80 guineas,—by J. Dyckmans, 1853, 'The Blind Beggar,' 910 guineas, (bought by Miss Clarke),—by J. M. W. Turner, R.A., 'The Lock,' engraved, in the *Liber Studiorum*, and also in the Royal Gallery of British Art, 500 guineas, (bought by Mr. Gambart).—The collection realized 8,965l.

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Mdlle. Aot, a mezzo-soprano, has arrived in London with the purpose, it is said, of singing in private concerts this year, and of not attempting any more public appearance till she has tried her wings on the stage abroad. The remarkable success attending this young lady as a private concert-singer—a position in which any want of preparation and accomplishment is at once felt—claims record

among the events of the season, and further as an encouragement to other aspirants. They may be satisfied that, at the time present, no thoroughly qualified artist will stand for many hours in need of recognition and employment.—We understand that the debut of Miss Kemble is postponed for a few months.

M. Jules Janin did not "reckon without his host" when he spoke in one of his liveliest pages of the instant and universal sensation which would run like lightning through the world of novel-readers were M. Victor Hugo to announce that, on such or such another day, should be published his long-looked-for *Quinquagénario*. There is a notice in this week's *Gazette Musicale*, signed by M. La Fage—to whom, and to the journal, we leave the responsibility—which will be little less provocative to the world of musicians. Let us, however, at once say that we will not believe, till our own ears have heard it, that Signor Rossini has absolutely broken silence! This is said to be the case, "believe it who list," and the breach is described as amounting to six Songs, for a mezzo-soprano voice, which are shortly to be published for a charity;—also a new composition for the horn, beguiled out of the dead composer by M. Vivier. Every musician or lover of music, let him write ever so incredulously of such a tale, may be excused if he feels a tingling of hope that it may prove true. Meanwhile—whether, on the principle of the man and wife in the children's weather-houses, who may guess?—M. Meyerbeer is understood to be in a state of duddiness with his subjects in Paris, and to have vanished thence. Gossips who should know assure us that he has announced his determination of not giving 'L'Africaine' to the *Grand Opéra* so long as that theatre is a State institution,—otherwise furnished with singers,—introduced there, on official, not musical, grounds. The rumour, too, of his comic opera, with few characters and no chorus, being put into rehearsal at the *Opéra Comique*, has died away. There seems nothing in Paris, in short, calculated to attract present attention, so that the miracle of Signor Rossini waking from a silence of a quarter of a century, would now be, indeed, a marvel—the last of many strange jokes. But we do not seriously believe in its possibility.

M. Bataille—one of the most consummate artists of his time, is about to leave the *Opéra Comique*. A one-act trifle, 'Le Ciel des Champs,' with music by M. Dufay, having Madame Du Barry for heroine of its story, has just been produced at the same theatre.—At the annual meeting of the *Orphéon*, or gathering of the popular singing-classes held the other day, a popular novelty seems to have been a setting, by M. Gounod, the Director, of La Fontaine's fable 'Le Chêne et le Fourmi.' "He has written," says the *Gazette Musicale*, "a little musical comedy, as pleasant as the poetical one; arranged his chorus dialogue-wise, and made it be surprised, mock itself, laugh and moralize, in the most natural and consequently most original fashion possible.—We are disposed to put faith in this promise, from knowing the skill, grace, and tenderness with which M. Gounod has set some of the *Chansons* of Beranger.

"In a recent letter," says our Neapolitan Correspondent, "I spoke of our new *prima donna*, Signora Fioretti, from whom much was expected. On Thursday, 'I Puritani' was performed at *San Carlo*. Her singing is admitted to be full of grace, of flexibility, and spontaneity—her voice is limpid, fresh, and of a wide range.—The writer of the above welcome tidings, enters largely into the general decay of music in Naples. How complete this is the Londoner may gather even more clearly from the extract from an epistle of another friend in Italy, competent to speak, who writes about the music in Florence, after having wintered further south. Fancy his describing Signora Beltramelli (Mdlle. Bertrandi that was) and Signora Lorini (the American lady who appeared last year at our Surrey Opera) as "a Pasta and a Malibran, in comparison with *La Viola*, the last winter's *prima donna* in Naples!—Our Florentine letter speaks in less qualifying phrase of Signor Cresci, a *barytone*, and Signor Mirate, a *tenore robusto*, dwelling on the latter particularly as a magnificent-looking man, with a fine voice and a good method.

The comedy of 'The Rivals' was revived on Monday, with an excellent cast, at the Haymarket. Mr. Chippendale, as *Sir Anthony Absolute*, was in some scenes more than respectable; and Mr. W. Farren, as the *Capitan*, acted with a spirit and vivacity, which strongly resembled Mr. Charles Mathews. Mrs. Poynter was *Mrs. Malaprop*, and in some respects a peculiar one. She has not the breadth of style to which we are accustomed in the part; but there is, on the other hand, a drawing-room air and manner, which lends an appearance of probability to the eccentricity of her conduct and discourse, and harmonizes with the tone of fashionable society by which she is surrounded. Miss Reynolds's *Lydia Langshir* is lively and attractive. We could wish that the company were more frequently engaged in this class of performance. One night's acting in such a comedy does more for the actor's improvement than many weeks' continuance in the trashy productions which are too frequently substituted for the genuine drama of the British stage. The comedy was succeeded by a new farce, entitled 'My son Diana.' The piece is a version of 'Monsieur votre Fille,' by MM. Marc Michel and Labiche, and the heroine, performed by Miss Oliver, appears in male attire,—her whimsical father, a quondam general, having military tastes, and preferring to bring up his daughter in boyish accomplishments. From this unnatural state of things, the young lady has to be redeemed by a candid lover, who is represented by Mr. Buckstone, and succeeds in his task. Little skill is shown in the manner in which this result is brought about; but, as the piece was acted with cleverness and spirit, the audience appeared to be satisfied.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dillon resumed their engagement at Sadler's Wells on Monday. On Tuesday, Mr. Falconer's play of 'The Cagot' was repeated there.—And 'The Musketeers' has formed the after-piece during the week.

Madame Ristori's performances in London are to begin on Monday week, with 'Medea.'

#### MISCELLANEA

*The Bed of the Nile.*—Since the publication of Lepsius's *Letters to Ehrenberg and Bech* in 1844, it seems to have been considered a settled point that within the last 4,000 years, there has been a sinking of the bed of the Nile, or at least of some portion of it, to the extent of 24 or 25 feet. This idea has arisen in consequence of Lepsius having discovered certain engravings, partly on the rocks and partly on the foundations of some very ancient fortresses, at Semneh, in Nubia, which record the heights of the highest point reached by the inundation of the Nile, and bear dates of the reign of King Amenemha the Third of the twelfth dynasty and his successors, whom Lepsius places about 2200 years B.C. There are eighteen of these registers extant, but three of them are fallen from their place, and only fifteen are available at the present time. These are all far above the highest point the inundation now reaches, and the average of them proves that when they were engraved the Nile reached a point 24 or 25 feet higher than it does now. Hence Lepsius concluded that since that period the bed of the Nile, at least this part of it, has been hollowed out to that extent; and some such theory seems to have been generally adopted, though Mr. Horner published a paper in the *Edinburgh Philosophical Journal*, which has subsequently been reprinted in the translation of Lepsius's 'Letters from Egypt,' published in 1853,—showing how impossible it is for so gentle a river as the Nile, flowing at a rate of about two miles an hour over the hardest rocks, to have excavated its bed to so great an extent. Every one, however, appears to have overlooked the fact, that the earliest but one of these registries is the lowest of all, and that it was not until twenty-one years afterwards the highest point was reached. The dates of the registries now standing are the years 6, 9, 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 30, 32, 37, 40, 41, and 43, of the reign of Amenemha, and the fourth of his successor. Unfortunately, Dr. Lepsius has, so far as I know, only published the measurements of three

of these,—namely, the ninth, fifteenth, and thirtieth years of the reign of Amenemha. That of the ninth is lowest of all, though still 9 feet above the present ordinary level of the high Nile,—this one, however, is on the opposite side of the river to all the rest, and, as I gather, a little lower down the stream than the others, which may in part account for the difference. The lowest on the opposite or eastern bank is that dated the fifteenth year; it is 13½ feet above the present ordinary level. The highest of all is the one dated the thirtieth year, and is 26 feet 8 inches above the present level. Hence it appears that there has not been a gradual decrease since these records were engraved, nor a sudden decrease at the time, but in the first instance a great and apparently irregular increase for several years, at least twenty-four, and then a decrease for several years more, of which we have six entries remaining, some later ones having fallen. I am too little accustomed to considerations of this nature, and possess too little knowledge of the character of the Nile country above Semneh, to attempt offering any explanation of the phenomena in question, but perhaps if the real nature of them be placed before the public some one more competent might do so. I am, &c., W. HURLEY.

Torquay.

*Corrupt English.*—In an article in the *Morning Post* of Monday (May 25) on the subject of public education, the writer sneers at those candidates for appointments under the East India Company who "failed in English." His right to sneer may be judged by schoolboys. For example, he writes:—"A vast number of schools are most disgracefully conducted." He goes on,— "The best remedy for the very low standard of elementary education which now obtains, is a problem which has yet to be solved." "Obtains what?" To obtain is to win from, to procure from, to get. The writer resembles those gentlemen of Mining Lane who talk of tallows looking upward, of sugar being quiet, of prices ruling high, or falling low. These corruptions are spreading amongst us, and young ladies lip out that they cannot realize a mountain 15,000 feet high, or an ocean table-land 3 miles below the surface of the sea. It would be more than a miracle if they could. We have long-established absurdities of the same sort in the shape of those provincialisms in which persons indulge when they speak of a quantity of men, or a few broth. Use your power to correct these blunders. A.

*Fossils from Anticosti.*—The Museum of the Geological Survey in Montreal has been recently greatly enriched by the accession of a remarkably fine and interesting collection of fossils collected by Mr. Richardson in the course of a few months in the island of Anticosti. A cursory examination of the collection by Prof. Hall, of Albany, and Mr. Billings, the paleontologist attached to the Survey, has shown the existence of a great number of new Brachiopods and other types,—some, indeed, of a character at present altogether problematical. Amongst other facts of interest brought to light by the fossils, particular importance is attached to the simultaneous occurrence in one of the Anticosti beds of many well-marked forms belonging to both the Lower and Upper divisions of the Silurian series,—a phenomenon not hitherto observed, or, at least, to a similar extent, in American rocks,—the line of demarcation between the Upper and Lower Silurians of the Western world being, as a general rule, very strongly pronounced. The lowest of the observed beds in Anticosti itself belongs to the Hudson River group; but the Silurian formation (the next in an ascending order) so largely developed along the southern shores of the St. Lawrence, appears to be entirely wanting. Geologists may look forward with much interest to the results of Prof. Hall's detailed examination of this important collection, which adds considerably to our knowledge of Paleozoic forms.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.—G. V.—H. C.—J. R.—X. L. C. R.—C. S.—J. H.—M. A. H.—Scripser.—J. W.—received. Scotus.—Wheat, of course.



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